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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

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I N S I D E

NATION



A NASA rover beams back pictures suggesting that water once flowed on Mars.

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ASIA



A plane carrying trekkers to the Everest region crashes, killing 19.

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LIFE & STYLE



Swimmer Ryan Lochte says he only embraced Hollywood to raise his sport's profile.

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Senate, Maratita, Yumul seek to depose Fital. PAGE 2
CUC's new customer billing system begins Monday. PAGE 2

Budget bill now with governor

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fital's back is up against the wall with only two days to review a \$114-million budget bill that the Senate and House of Representatives passed during yesterday's emergency sessions to try to prevent a partial government shutdown on Oct. 1.

» **House, Senate pass \$114M spending package 2 days before deadline**
» **No guarantee Oct. 1 shutdown will be averted**

There is no telling whether the governor will sign the budget bill in time for Sunday's deadline, given that some lawmakers themselves expressed "extreme reservations" about some of its provisions.

Fital said last night it is "quite troubling" that even though he submitted

his budget proposal ahead of the April 1 deadline, the Legislature "once again

waited till the eleventh hour to get their acts together and pass a budget."

"Our people don't deserve having to wait anxiously to know whether there will be a shutdown or not. Surely, they weren't expecting me to immediately sign



Fital

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GAO: More DHS actions needed on CW program

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The U.S. Government Accountability Office released yesterday a 55-page report citing additional actions needed from the Department of Homeland Security on the transitional Commonwealth-only worker program, including providing the method used in allocating CW permits, at a time when CNMI employers remain uncertain whether they will still continue to have access to foreign workers beyond Dec. 31, 2014.

In its report, GAO also said the U.S. Department of Labor has not determined whether to extend the transition period. It said DOL is not required to do so until July 2014.

GAO is the investigative arm of the U.S. Congress.

"Uncertainty about the impact of the pending DHS and DOL decisions on access to foreign workers may be limiting business investment in the CNMI," GAO said.

DHS' decision on its permit allocation for fiscal year 2013 and a U.S. Labor de-

See GAO on Page 4



NEW SIGNBOARD

Jessie Ortega, an employee of Yuman Construction, works on a new Commonwealth Legislature signboard on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon. At about the same time yesterday, members of the House of Representatives inside the legislative building were racing against time to pass a \$114-million budget bill that the Senate earlier passed and is now before the governor to try to avert a government shutdown starting on Oct. 1.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

59-yr.-old man gets 10 yrs. for sex abuse of 6 girls

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A 59-year-old man was slapped yesterday with the maximum 10-year prison term for fondling six girls with ages ranging from 4 to 12 years old.

Aquilino Castillo, a carpenter, was also ordered to register as a sex offender and pay a \$200 fine and \$100 court assessment fee.

"Our society has declared a campaign against sexual abuse of children and this court supports such campaign as it is not an activity that is or can be a part of this society's traditions," said Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman at the sentencing.

The judge underscored the importance of sending a strong message to potential offenders and adults who ter-

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Fital: E-Land new majority owner of COP

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Real estate mogul E-Land Group of Korea seems to be in a hotel shopping spree in the CNMI, adding the Coral Ocean Point Golf Course and Hotel to the list of hotels under its wing.

Gov. Benigno R. Fital announced yesterday that E-Land Group of Korea is now majority owner of Coral Ocean Point.

The governor said in order for Coral

Ocean Point to facilitate redevelopment and expansion, it had "reached agreement to resolve its outstanding Commonwealth tax claims with the new majority owner E-Land Group of Korea."

"Our objective in these negotiations was to provide an incentive for all parties to make a firm commitment to fully develop this key piece of Commonwealth property. Coral Ocean Point's beachfront location and golf course presents an ex-

See COP on Page 4

Local

Senate, Maratita, Yumul seek to depose Fitial, others

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Senate and Reps. Janet U. Maratita and Ray N. Yumul want to depose government officials, including Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, to seek documents or evidence in connection with their lawsuit against the governor and co-defendants over a \$190-million no-bid power purchase agreement.

The Office of the Attorney General, representing Fitial, objected to the deposition and asked the court to quash or modify the notice of deposition and subpoena.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman refused yesterday to rule on the

deposition issue at this time, holding it in abeyance until a motion to dismiss the lawsuit is resolved.

Wiseman will hear the motion to dismiss filed by the OAG on behalf of Fitial on Oct. 11, 2012, at 1:30pm.

Attorney Ramon K. Quichocho appeared at yesterday's hearing as counsel for the Senate and Reps. Maratita and Yumul. Assistant attorney general David Lochabay appeared for Fitial.

In a notice sent on Sept. 18, 2012, Quichocho said he wants to depose Fitial on Oct. 9, 2012, for the purpose of dis-

covery, or as evidence, or both. He said Fitial must be deposed as he was the one that negotiated the power purchase agreement.

Quichocho also sent on Sept. 19, 2012, a notice to depose House Speaker Eli Cabrera, Commonwealth Utilities Corp. acting executive director Alan Fletcher, Finance Secretary Larissa Larson, and Rep. Joseph Palacios. The notices were accompanied by subpoenas.

In Fitial's motion to quash the notice of deposition and subpoena, Lochabay said they just want the case on an ordinary track. "Just treat this case just any other case. There's nothing

special," he said.

What is particularly outrageous, Lochabay, were the subpoenas the plaintiffs served on the Commonwealth Ports Authority and the Bank of Guam that he said obviously relate to the departure of former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham from the CNMI—a matter that is totally irrelevant to any issues in the complaint.

Lochabay said these are prime examples of plaintiffs' "continuing abuse of the discovery process."

The government lawyer asked the court to issue a case management order and maintain the closest supervision of the case to ensure that it does not become a political circus.

Lochabay also invoked the high-ranking official privilege in Fitial's case, saying that courts have recognized for over 70 years the need to protect ranking government officials from the time-consuming demands of litigation over actions taken within the scope of the offices they hold.

Quichocho pointed out, however, that only two people knew about the deal—Fitial and former attorney general Edward Buckingham. He cited Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. as stating that they did not know about the power purchase agreement.

"There's one other person who knows, but he is a fugitive of justice," the lawyer said, re-

ferring to Buckingham.

Quichocho said that deposing the governor is allowed because he had personal knowledge of the deal and there is no alternative source for that information.

The Senate, Maratita and Yumul are suing Fitial, Buckingham, CUC, and Saipan Development LLC in a bid to have the 25-year power purchase agreement declared as "unconstitutional, illegal, unconscionable, and unjust, and therefore, cancelled."

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman has already issued a preliminary injunction that prohibits Fitial and co-defendants from pursuing all agreements associated or related to the agreement.

» OAG objects to deposition; judge refuses to rule on issue



IN APPRECIATION

Rep. Ramon Basa, standing right, receives a certificate of appreciation from consultant C.E. Bud White of the Center for Living Independently-CNMI, who is joined by executive director Lydia D. Igitol and advocate Tina Marie Stephen, during a ceremony at the center on Capital Hill on Sept. 26. Basa, along with Reps. Edmund Villagomez and Ray Yumul, donated a total of \$3,500 to the center to be used for its free-ride coupon program that benefits some 40 consumers and volunteers.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Diaz elected new NMC faculty president

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Instructional employees of the Northern Marianas College selected a new leader this week.

Amanda Angel Diaz, who was named Monday as the institution's faculty senate president, will give voice to instructional employees in her capacity as an honorary member of the Board of Regents.

She attended her first meeting with the board on Wednesday.

Diaz used to serve as the NMC faculty senate secretary.

Diaz is a member of the college's School of Education for three years now. Pri-

or to joining NMC, she was a classroom teacher for public schools for more than three years. She holds a master's degree in education from the Framingham State University and obtained her bachelor's degree from NMC. She is an alumna of Marianas High School.

Diaz succeeds Roy Greenland as faculty senate president. The other new officers are vice president Cyndi DeLeon Guerrero and secretary Jim Kline. The faculty senate

has nine members.

The faculty senate is the official representative body and legislative body of the Faculty Assembly of NMC. It acts on behalf of the faculty, and it is

accountable to the Faculty Assembly for its actions. In participating in the governance process of NMC, the faculty senate has voting representation on the College Council, and the faculty senate president serves as a nonvoting honorary member of the Board of Regents.

During Wednesday's board meeting, Diaz said she is working with her team in establishing the council's goals and priorities for the year.

She said NMC has over 30 faculty members, excluding adjunct members or part-time instructors.

She refused to comment on the shortage of instructors at the college, besides saying that they will look into several issues concerning faculty members.



Diaz

CUC's new customer billing system begins Monday

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

After a few weeks of testing, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. announced yesterday that its newly installed state-of-the-art billing information system will officially go live starting Monday, Oct. 1.

A CUC statement said that customers will soon expect a more efficient operation from the agency, with the most significant change many will notice is the new billing format.

"Gone are the small postcards with cramped information. The new bills provide much more detail, including usage information for the past 12 months," the CUC statement said.

Based on the new billing format, each customer will be provided detailed information about the specific charges indicated in the billing statement.

For electric, CUC enumerates

the different charges under the component such as customer charge, electric charge, and LEAC (levelized energy adjustment clause).

For the water component of the bill, clearly noted are fees for water service fee, water usage, and electric charge.

For the sewer system, the new format provides information on the service fee and sewer usage.

The new format will also clearly indicate the amount of consumption by customers per service, balance account, and specific periods covered by these services.

CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that online payment and payment by phone will follow in two months.

"The online payment is still about 60 days away. For the time being, bills will be sent by mail just like always," he said.

CUC began test running the

new system in early September, running it parallel with the old software to ensure proper data conversion and adequate staff training. During this transition period, CUC customers experienced delays and waited in lines for their transaction.

CUC contracted Harris' in-Hance, a subsidiary of Constellation Software Inc., to install the new software, replacing the over 20-year-old system in place. This new system aims to improve services like online billing and payment and automated online dispatching of field crews, among others.

Funding for this project was sourced from a grant approved by the Office of Insular Affairs.

Harris is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Constellation and is a leading provider of financial management and customer information systems software solutions. It has over 6,500 utility customers.

PIDB awarded \$400K loan for relending program

HILO, Hawaii—USDA Rural Development State Director Chris Kanazawa announced yesterday the selection of Pacific Islands Development Bank to receive an Intermediary Relending Program loan to promote economic development and job creation through increased business lending.

"These funds support the Obama administration's ongoing effort to bring increased economic opportunity to rural small businesses and communities in the Western Pacific," Kanazawa said. "We have a longstanding partnership with PIDB and this award is a demonstration of our continued support for the mission of PIDB and to local businesses and business owners."

The funding is being provided through USDA Rural Development's Intermediary Relending Program. The total amount of loan announced is \$400,000. The Intermediary Relend-

ing Program provides funds to organizations to establish revolving loan pools that are used to finance business and economic development activity to create or retain jobs in rural communities.

"PIDB has had a successful track record in providing assistance to rural small businesses in Guam, the CNMI, Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands," said Joseph Diego, Area Director for USDA Rural Development. "The IRP funds will assist businesses to finance working capital, machinery and equipment and real estate-related transactions."

"The success of the IRP program is evident throughout the region and many small and medium size enterprises were established with direct financing from this program," said Aren Palik, president and CEO of PIDB. "Small businesses and

entrepreneurial skills are a vital component of economic growth and development, the IRP funds will be utilized primarily for that purpose."

The Pacific Islands Development Bank has received over \$2 million under this program and hundreds of jobs have been created or saved. The funds are used to finance approved business proposals from PIDB member islands, which includes Guam, Palau, FSM States of Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Marshall Islands, which attained membership last year.

PIDB was established in 1989 to help accelerate economic and social development of member countries. It was created in response to a longstanding desire on the part of these small island nations for a development institution that would focus on the pressing needs and problems of the region. (USDA)

Kilili, AlumKnights donate books, garbage cans to MCS



Mount Carmel School students and school president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, far right, gather with Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan, rear, center, and members of the school's Class of 2002, far left, before the books donated by Sablan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Two of Mount Carmel School's partners donated books and garbage cans for the school during flag raising rites on campus last week.

Delegate Gregorio Sablan (Ind-MP) turned over almost 20 boxes of books to the school's library

while the Class of 2002 AlumKnights donated four drum cans.

The books, which cover a wide range of genres, from fiction and science to history, came from the Library of Congress, which often receives multiple copies of books when they are first published. The excess books that the Library does not need for its own collection are

made available to members of Congress. Sablan began securing books from the Library of Congress in 2009. His staff combs through the extra books in the library basement, sorting them by reading level and suitability.

Since 2009, the islands' public schools and private schools have been recipient of thou-

sands of books from the Library of Congress.

Sablan shared with the school's student body his own experience with books at Mount Carmel School as a student. Crediting his teachers for putting him in a room full of books, he said he has since then become an avid reader.

Joining Kilili for the donation of books were representatives of the school's Class of 2002—Anthony Reyes, Herbert Sablan, and Valerie Hofschneider—who had their own donation to make. They presented the school with four drum cans to be used as receptacles for trash or recyclable items. The class, which recently celebrated its 10th year reunion, made the donation as part of its reunion activities.

MCS president Galvin Deleon Guerrero was very happy to receive both donations. "This

was truly a double blessing. The books are desperately needed for our small library, and the drum cans will help us keep our campus clean. In these hard economic times, we are indebted to people like Congressman Kilili and our 2002 AlumKnights for their generosity."

Schools undergo training on crisis planning, response

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands sponsored a day and a half workshop for CNMI public schools titled, "Responding to K-12 Schools in Crisis: What you Need to Know."

Participants developed practical strategies for addressing the needs of students and staff during times of crisis. Trainers also helped educators address the emotional responses that occur and shared templates of tested protocols for crisis management. Participants also learned to effectively conduct supportive and appropriate classroom interventions.

The workshop also included training on "Creating and Sustaining a Local Crisis Response Team," which is designed to provide a template of tested protocols for managing school crisis events. Helping educators address their own emotional responses was also included.

The training supports the goal of Project Safe Neighborhoods, a Department of Justice initiative announced in 2001, to combat gang and gun violence by promoting coordination among federal, state and local agencies to make our communities safer.

The trainers were Roger Roberts, Director, Madison County Emergency Management Agency; and Mary Dietz and Margaret Johnson, members of the Madison County Crisis Response Team, in Ohio.

"[We need] to learn more about what we can do, as a community, to protect and be

responsive to the needs of our children and families during a time of crisis—whether it be a school shooting, a hate crime or other violence erupting on campus, a kidnapping or child exploitation crime, or even a natural disaster affecting our entire community," said U.S. Attorney Alicia Limtiaco.

"It is during these times of crises that we must come together, as a community, to respond and help one another, as not one person nor one organi-

zation can do it alone. It is during these time of crises when we are most challenged and tested...and thus, it is critical that we take the time to plan before any crisis occurs, and practice our plan as practice—practice and more practice—is just as important as the plan itself," added Limtiaco.

The workshop was held at the State Board of Education Conference Room behind the Marianas High School campus on Bwughos Street in Susupe.

Participants in Rota were also able to attend the training via video-conference. (USAO)



Ramon M. Dela Cruz
Mayor

Office of the Mayor

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PUBLIC NOTICE OF LIST OF QUALIFIED CANDIDATES FOR TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION

Edwin P. Aldan
Lydia F. Barcinas
Arsene M. Borja
David M. Cing
Dolores P. Cruz
Debra Fleming
Anthony U. Hofschneider
Julian U. Hofschneider
Mathew C. Masga
James M. Mendiola
Manuel P. Villagomez

/s/ RAMON M. DELA CRUZ
MAYOR OF TINIAN AND AGUIGUAN



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Department of Public Health Division of Public Health



In a continuing effort to provide adequate access of nutritious foods for CNMI WIC participants, the CNMI WIC Program is pleased to announce the following authorized CNMI WIC Vendors Effective October 1, 2012.

Saipan

I-Mart
Kagman Market
Joeten Dandan Store
Joeten Hafadai
Han Nam Supermarket
Sara Market II
EZ Mart
Blue Sky Supermarket
San Jose Mart
Payless Supermarket
PHI Pharmacy I

Tanapag
Kagman
Dandan
Garapan
Koblerville
Capitol Hill
Gualo Rai
Chalan Piao
San Jose
Chalan Kanoa
Navy Hill

Farmers Market

Sabalu Market
Tuesday Market

Susupe
Garapan

Tinian

Tian Hong Market
J & J Mart

San Jose
San Jose

Rota

Sinapalo Safeway
Lucky Store

Sinapalo
Songsong

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"Healthy Families for A Lifetime"

COP

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cellent opportunity for development of a high quality tourist destination. However, the facility never achieved this objective, and it was allowed to slowly deteriorate. I believe that the

ABUSE

From Page 1

rorize, perpetrate, and violate the innocence of minors.

Wiseman said that Castillo’s own lawyer, assistant public defender Benjamin K. Petersburg, acknowledged that the defendant’s conduct was reprehensible, serious, and deplorable.

Castillo pleaded guilty on Sept. 14,

new combination of local ownership and fresh investment at Coral Ocean Point will transform this facility,” Fitial said in a statement.

Prior to the announcement by the governor, Suwaso Corp. was the reported majority owner of Coral Ocean Point.

Fitial pointed out that the new

2012, to one count of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, which carries a maximum sentence of 10 years behind bars and up to a \$10,000 fine.

According to the plea agreement, in the summer of 2011, Castillo, then 58 years old, touched or grabbed the genitals of six girls, between the ages of four and 12, over their clothing.

Assistant attorney general Nicole Driscoll recommended the full maximum sentence for Castillo because of

owners have assured him that they have solid plans for renovation and expansion.

This redevelopment will provide both short-term construction jobs and long-term employment, he added.

“I am confident that in the next few months we will be able to couple the renovation plan of Coral Ocean Point

the number of victims and their ages.

Driscoll said that Castillo’s conduct was extreme and disturbing. She said the victims belong to four different families in a neighborhood.

Petersburg pushed for a sentence of 10 years in prison, all suspended except for the first six years plus probation.

Petersburg said the conduct involved in the case is clearly reprehensible, but is not so egregious as to warrant the maximum sentence.

with other developments that we are working on, which in total, will revitalize tourism in the Commonwealth and expansion of the economy,” the governor said.

The governor’s announcement came only weeks after E-Land expressed “interest” in leasing some 34,000 square meters of public lands

He cited many sentences handed out by the Superior Court in similar cases, including 53-year-old Juan R. Babauta who pleaded guilty to one count of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree involving a 12-year-old girl. Babauta was sentenced to five years in prison, all suspended except for 30 months.

Petersburg said that Castillo’s case involved touching on the outside of the girls’ clothes. This, he said, is “clearly less egregious” than conduct

in San Antonio to build a new hotel resort.

Acting Department of Public Lands secretary Ray Salas met with E-Land officials in August on the San Antonio property.

This also comes months after E-Land bought The Palms Resort in San Roque.

involving contact under clothing, contact with the offender’s genital, or one involving sexual penetration.

Petersburg also noted that there has been no evidence presented that the girls involved in this case required medical attention or counseling, or that their behavior has changed in a negative way as a result of Castillo’s actions.

The defense lawyer said Castillo has lived on Saipan for nearly 20 years, is not married but has three children in the Philippines.

GAO

From Page 1

cision on whether and when to extend the transition period, both required by the Consolidated Natural Resources Act, are both pending.

Foreign workers made up more than half of the CNMI workforce in 2012, and CNMI businesses reported challenges in finding replacements for foreign workers.

Members of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the largest business organization in the CNMI, indicated that uncertainty over pending federal actions

has caused them to limit their plans for future investments in the CNMI.

The GAO report, prepared by GAO director for International Affairs and Trade David Gootnick, recommends that the DHS secretary (1) provide, on publication of its permit allocations, the methodology used and (2) use DOL analyses as a factor in deciding future permit allocations.

DHS agreed to publish its methodology but will wait to review DOL analyses until they are available before deciding to use them, GAO said.

It added that DHS plans to announce the permit allocation for fiscal year 2013 by the end of September 2012.

“Knowledge of DHS’ methodology could help allay any public uncertainty regarding future access to foreign workers in the CNMI,” GAO said.

DHS’ Sept. 7, 2011, final rule establishing the transitional work permit program in the CNMI addressed key requirements of the CNRA or U.S. Public Law 110-229, the law that placed CNMI immigration under federal control.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked for comment, said yesterday that the Fitial administration supports the continued use of foreign labor in the economy, with the CW-1 permit as a mechanism for the use of

foreign labor.

“We applaud the efforts of this GAO report. We highly recommend that the report provide a more comprehensive survey or assessment on what the current businesses needs are. We recommend that the report provide further recommendations to Congress on what capacity and resources are necessary to identify the needs of businesses and any new investors, not just prevent an impact to the CNMI economy during the transition, but for expansion beyond the transitional period,” Demapan said.

GAO said as of July 12, DHS had processed about half of the petitions for

work permits that employers submitted in fiscal year 2012.

But more recent data from DHS’ U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services shows that 7,128 or 58 percent of 12,311 foreign workers petitioned for a CW status have so far been granted CW permits as of Sept. 25, 2012.

The remaining 5,183 that are still without CW permits include those petitions still awaiting response from the employer or those who have yet to respond to “requests for evidence.”

A full copy of the GAO report can be viewed at <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-12-975>.

BUDGET

From Page 1

the bill into law without conducting a proper review. They must remember that I am allowed up to 20 days to consider a bill for action. However, I know that so many people’s lives hang in the balance because some lawmakers were too busy prioritizing their political grandstanding agenda over real issues like the budget bill,” Fitial told *Saipan Tribune*.

The governor said he will work through the weekend with his budget review team to comb through the new version of the budget bill.

“I anticipate that a decision on whether a shutdown is necessary or not will be made on Sunday,” Fitial added.

If no budget is in place by tomorrow, the government will have to partially shut down starting Monday, as required by the NMI Constitution. Only those identified by the governor in a preparatory shutdown memo issued late Wednesday will be exempted from a shutdown.

A partial shutdown will force over 1,500 government employees to be out of jobs until a budget is signed into law.

80 hours restored

Despite heated debate among House members yesterday afternoon, the approved bill keeps intact a promised restoration of 80 work hours biweekly from the current 72 hours and earlier, 64 hours, but chops down funding for some agencies and imposes an across-the-board cut of 1.78 percent to “balance” the budget.

The 1.78 percent across-the-board cut also applies to the five priority agencies that the conferees identified: Public School System, Medical Referral Program, Medicaid reimbursement,

Northern Marianas College, and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

“It’s not a perfect budget bill but it’s a product that’s a result of concerted effort among conferees focused on priority programs. I’d like to think positive, that the governor will sign it,” House Ways and Means Committee chair Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) told *Saipan Tribune* shortly after the House passed his budget bill.

But Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan) said the conference committee reduced the budget of agencies it earlier promised to prioritize, including PSS, “because of the 80 hours” which he said is political in nature.

Basa, during the session, described Dela Cruz’s claim of being political with the 80-hour restoration as “garbage.”

“We worked not for political reason. If you don’t like this product, then vote ‘no,’” Basa told Dela Cruz on the floor.

True enough, Dela Cruz voted “no” to the conference committee version of the budget bill, along with five other members.

Basa, chairman of the conference committee that labored on a compromise spending package, said in an interview that restoring 80 hours will circulate more money within the CNMI and this will translate into more revenue for the government.

Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), one of the conferees from the Senate, said the 4-percent employer contribution to the defined contribution plan is under the discretion of each department or municipality.

“That’s the reason we gave 100 percent reprogramming authority for each expenditure authority,” Torres said.

Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan), also a budget conferee, said, “Nobody is spared from cuts.”

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) said the conference committee, which he was also a part of, “worked

really hard on the numbers.”

“You win some, you lose some,” he said during the session.

The six-member conference committee also includes Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), and Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan). The alternate members were Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan) and Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian).

Race against time

The conference committee finalized the budget bill past 12:01am Friday.

The Senate passed the budget measure at around 4am Friday by a vote of 8-0. Sen. Luis Crisostimo (Ind-Saipan) was excused from the session.

“I am hoping we can avert a shutdown. That’s the last thing we need now. Numbers don’t make everyone happy but we have to abide by the conferees’ work, compromise,” Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said.

Manglona originally set a 1pm Thursday Senate session in anticipation of a budget bill by then, but this was moved to 7pm.

Senators, however, stayed at the Legislature to wait for the conference committee to finalize a budget bill.

The House speaker, meanwhile, originally set a 10am Friday session, which was moved to 11am, then to 1pm. However, the session didn’t begin until 2:55pm.

‘Computer glitch’

The Senate, however, had to go into another emergency session around 3:30pm yesterday to “recall” the budget bill they passed during the wee hours of the morning that unintentionally “zeroed” the budget for the Board of Education.

The conference committee mem-

bers repeatedly said yesterday the zero funding for the Board of Education was a result of a “computer glitch” and was not intended by any of the conferees.

The conferees corrected the bill to restore the \$172,257 funding for the Board of Education.

By a vote of 7-0, the Senate passed the “corrected version” yesterday afternoon. Besides Crisostimo, also excused was Sen. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Tinian).

BOE members Herman Guerrero and Lucy Blanco-Maratita, during public comment period at the House session, asked House members to restore funding for the board and expressed hope the zero funding was unintentional.

“I hope it’s just an oversight... Basically, you’re firing the commissioner and the board staff. The commissioner is also the expenditure authority. [Without the expenditure authority], you’re shutting down the Public School System,” Guerrero said.

Education commissioner Rita Sablan echoed the board members’ sentiments, adding that PSS will try its very best to live with the \$30 million given to it, lower than the \$33 million earlier promised it.

Northern Marianas College’s Dave Attao also asked the House to keep in mind that “financial stability” is a critical factor to NMC’s accreditation this year.

Saipan Mayor Donald Flores and his advisor Henry Hofschneider also addressed the House members later, asking for more funding for the Saipan Mayor’s Office. Flores was particularly emotional, saying lawmakers “ignored” the people who put them in office by funding his office less.

How they voted

While the budget bill passed the Senate “twice” with all members present voting “yes,” it wasn’t the

same at the House.

House members debated the budget bill for almost two hours before voting on it.

The budget bill passed the House by a vote of 13-6 with one excused absence, Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan).

Those who voted “no” were Reps. Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan), Ray Yumul (R-Saipan), Tony Sablan (R-Saipan), Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan), Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), and Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan).

Maratita said the budget bill is “not only defective, it’s deceptive” too.

Villagomez, for his part, reiterated his concerns on a \$114-million budget bill and work hour restoration.

“Let’s not forget that at \$120 million-plus [years ago], we implemented austerity measures and cut the pay period down to 64 or 72 hours. But at \$114 million, or \$6 million less, now we can afford 80 hours? Forgive me if I sound a bit skeptical, but as far as I can tell, our government has not shrunk that much and our actual revenues have not increased that much,” he said.

Among the 13 who voted “yes” did so with “reservation.”

For example, Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota) and House minority leader Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) separately said they have “extreme reservation” about the budget bill but for the sake of averting a shutdown, they will be voting “yes.”

Besides Santos and Joe Deleon Guerrero, the others who approved the bill were Speaker Cabrera, Vice Speaker Ogumoro, floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan), Reps. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan), Fred Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), Sylvester Iguel (Cov-Saipan), Joe Palacios (R-Saipan), Ray Palacios (Cov-Saipan), and Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan).

COP reaches accord to settle CNMI tax claims

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial announced yesterday that in order for Coral Ocean Point Golf Course and Hotel to facilitate redevelopment and expansion, it has reached an agreement to resolve its outstanding Commonwealth tax claims with the new majority owner, E-Land Group of Korea.

“Our objective in these negotiations was to provide an incentive for all parties to make a firm commitment to fully develop this key piece of Commonwealth property. Coral Ocean Point’s beachfront location and golf course presents an excellent opportunity for development of a high quality tourist destination. However, the facility never achieved this objective, and it was allowed to slowly deteriorate,” stated

Fitial. “I believe that the new combination of local ownership and fresh investment at Coral Ocean Point will transform this facility.”

The governor pointed out that the new owners have assured him that they have solid plans for renovation and expansion. This redevelopment will provide both short-term construction jobs and long-term employment, he added.

“I am confident that in the next few months we will be able to couple the renovation plan of Coral Ocean Point with other developments that we are working on, which in total, will revitalize tourism in the Commonwealth and expansion of the economy,” added Fitial. *(Office of the Governor)*

3 YEARS AFTER KILLER TSUNAMI A. Samoa becomes TsunamiReady

Rebounding from the destruction of a tsunami that struck three years ago, American Samoa has now earned NOAA’s official TsunamiReady designation, making this U.S. Pacific island territory more prepared to act in the event of a future tsunami.

“The people of American Samoa know first-hand the devastating impacts of tsunamis,” said Jeff LaDouce, director of the National Weather Service, Pacific Region. “Tsunamis are a real threat to American Samoa since seismic activity can come from the Tonga Trench located just offshore. The TsunamiReady program gives emergency managers the tools to prepare and warn citizens the next time a tsunami strikes, ultimately saving lives.”

On Sept. 29, 2009, 34 people were killed and several villages destroyed from a tsunami that struck just 17 minutes after an 8.0 magnitude earthquake occurred approximately 120 miles south of Pago Pago. Since then, the local NOAA National Weather Service office and emergency managers developed a formal tsunami hazard plan and meet other criteria to become TsunamiReady.

LaDouce presented Gov. Togiola T. A. Tulafano with a recognition letter and TsunamiReady street signs during a special ceremony at Utulei Beach in American Samoa on Sept. 28. The designation will be in effect for three years and can be renewed. The signs will be positioned in places across the island for public awareness. “This begins a state of tsu-

nami readiness on American Samoa that will continue to develop, expand and be exercised on a continuing basis,” said LaDouce. “We hope the efforts here encourage all island countries in the South Pacific to make similar efforts to prepare for tsunamis.”

To be recognized as TsunamiReady, a community must establish a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center, develop multiple ways to receive tsunami warnings and alert the public, develop a formal tsunami hazard plan, conduct emergency exercises and promote public readiness through community education.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency provided funding and technical assistance to support American Samoa’s effort to become TsunamiReady. NOAA also awarded federal grant money in support of this initiative.

“The people of American Samoa have shown incredible resilience in the face of the devastating 2009 Tsunami,” said Nancy Ward, administrator of FEMA Region IX. “Their dedication and commitment to participate in this program will undoubtedly help save lives in the future, and is an accomplishment the entire Territory can be proud of.”

The TsunamiReady program is part of the National Weather Service’s working partnership with the International Association of Emergency Managers, the National Emergency Management Association, and the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program. *(NOAA)*

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy birthday to Frances Cruz! Wishing you the very best and many more birthdays to come. Hope you have a fabulous day filled with lots of love. With lots of love, your god-daughter Katie.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday greetings go out to Lina Bala-jadia, who is celebrating her special day on Sept. 30, 2012! We wish you all the best and happiness in life! Greetings coming from Mareng Jane and Borge, godson Jemo, Jerome, and Janvir.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Position: Senior Vice President/General Manager (1)

Qualification: must have 10 years experience managing full service 36 hole golf course, experience in developing and marketing and coordinating marketing strategies, knowledge of business management practices of golf course operation and hotel operation, assignment and projects for the golf course, maintain and grow membership and customer by promptly handling member and guest concerns and issues, ensure open communication and high visibility to members and guest by conducting daily walk through of the club, generate revenue by acting as sales manager for the entire golf club and resort, expand sales by initiating and monitoring effectiveness of monthly promotions, demand managements and demand creation strategies.

Position: Cook Korean Cuisine (1)

Qualifications: Minimum of 3 years in the preparation of Korean food, will be involved in Korean menu development, inventory, ordering/purchasing, food cost control, training, personnel management such as coaching, complies to all applicable Sanitation Codes, ensure efficient, safe and sanitary food production, preparation, presentation and knowledgeable of Korean food trends with focus on quality, experience in large catering or banquet functions, excellent communication skills in Korean and basic English to understand and follow recipe, able to communicate on all levels, including management, departmental and customer.

Position: Chef de Partie (1)

Qualifications: 7 Years of cooking experience and training, responsible for the creation of high quality dishes, able to work independently, cooks consistently and enthusiastically on a high level, helps create and cook to perfection seasonal and including a five course modern gourmet menu, small selection of signature a la carte dishes, cooks and prepares for each meal service, controls incoming goods and stores food, vegetables, fruits, staple in a perfect conditions, guest orientated and able to converse with the clients, actively attends wine and general trainings, team building events and supplier visits to learn about local product, has fun cooking, is a sociable person, likes to work as a teamwork, and respects and actively works with colleagues.

Position: Cook (7)

Qualifications: Minimum of 3 years of experience and training, prepares or directs preparation of foods according to prescribed menus and recipes, takes inventory of supplies on hand and orders food supplies, ingredients and other consumables on a schedules basis as determined by menu and estimated number of customers, cleans and sanitizes all food preparation equipment and ensures that it is kept in safe and operable condition, knowledge of methods, materials, and practices of volume food preparation, sanitary methods used in food preparation.

Position: Assistant Manager, Food & Beverage Department (1)

Qualifications: Must have 5 years of working experience and training, Must have supervisory experienced and training preferably in hotel and resort facilities, have experienced for all food and beverage services including banquet catering, bar/grill, dining restaurant, and outside beverage carts, must have cost control of all food and beverage outlets by helping in overseeing the purchasing of food, maintains effective inventory and shortage controls, work with the Executive Chef to develop an annual food and beverage plan and budget, ensure successful operation of special events, banquets, rentals, coordinates the delivery for all food and beverage service to the customer at the highest guest standard, supervise staff and operational during shift, ensure all of the services provided are immediate need of the customer, maintain and develop a dedicated team providing the highest quality of service and addresses all staffing issues in a fair and timely manner.

Position: Kitchen Helper (1)

Qualifications: Must have 3 years of working experience, must be familiar with the dynamics of a professional kitchen is a plus, willingness to learn, time and space management skills, physical stamina, a friendly temperament, a desire to help out where needed and the ability to foster the creation and maintenance of a cohesive team, assist cooks, keep kitchen clean, perform a variety of food preparation task, assist with food and beverage service, receive and store supplies, sweeps and mops floors, segregates and removes trash and garbage and places, hoses out garbage container, washes pots, pans, trays by hand, scrapes food from dirty dishes and washes them by hand or place them in racks.

Position: Assistant Manager, Front Office (1)

Qualifications: Must have 2 years of experienced and training in the field of hotel and golf resort operation, must be organized, neat and professional appearance, pleasant, tactful and patient, able to communicate well with a wide variety of people, committed to providing good service, enjoyed dealing with people, ability to direct and control the activities of the Front Office, Reservations, deal with customer complaints, knowledge of a second language is a plus (write, read, and speak)computer literate with knowledge of a variety of computer software applications, and superior written and oral communications skills, ability to respond properly and take a supervisory role in any hotel emergency or safety situation.

Position: Korea Sales & Marketing (1)

Qualification: 3 years of experienced and training, must have worked in a hotel or tourism industry, communicate directly with guests, both in person and by telephone, provides information on facilities to Korean speaking guest at the golf & resort, provide information and services in Korean, must be able to offer the Korean guest in any number of special circumstances, good communication skills in Korean language is vitally important, provides all the information that the guest needs to enjoy their stay, good problem solving skills, good organizational skills, must be trained and experienced in tourism or hospitality managements, excellent customer service skills.

Position: Supervisor, Japan Sales & Marketing (2)

Qualifications: Minimum of 2 years experienced and training in marketing strategy for the Japanese market, must be fluent in the Japanese language as well as to read and write, experienced contacting and selling to Corporate level executives, experienced in Sales and Marketing most especially in the Japan markets, built and managed a network of marketing and selling Hotel and Golf product and services, possess innovative business promotional and advertising activities, strong negotiating skills, knowledgeable of the Japanese customers needs, have strong demonstrations skills, must work with management team to create sales and marketing plans that includes to identify and target Japan Markets, identify potential Japanese clients.

Position: Supervisor Pro Shop (1)

Qualifications: Must have 3 years of supervisory experienced and training, able to lead, direct and motivate the sales team in order to achieve sales objectives, identifies appropriate business targets, provides a professional and excellent level of customer service with existing and new customers, supervises scheduled shift, completes all assigned duties, supervises sale associates, ensure that all employees adhere to company policies and procedures, knowledge of principles, techniques, and objectives of marketing, manages a sales program, knowledge of hotel management and philosophy.

Position: Sales Representative, Pro shop (1)

Qualifications: Must have 5 years of training and experienced in the field of golf operation, must maintain outstanding customer service, generating sales, merchandising, must be fully competent in selling, knowledgeable of cashiering and receipt processing, knows how to operate a computerized point of sale cash receipts, inventory management system, ensure that each customer receives, ability to work varied hours/days, including nights, weekends and holidays as needed, must recognize security risks and thefts and know how to handle or prevent such situations.

Position: Front Desk Supervisor (1)

Qualifications: Minimum of 3 years of hospitality work, must have total understanding of all hotel front office procedures, know standard of cash handling, knowledge of computerized cash register systems, reservation system, must have experience in dealing directly with the public and acquired general knowledge of basic customer service skills, experienced and trained in the field of Front Office Operation, assist the Front Office Staff in handling customers in an efficient, gracious and professional manner and maintains a friendly, cheerful and courteous demeanor at all times.

Position: Front Desk Clerk, China/Korea Market (1)

Qualifications: Assist the front desk clerks in handling Korean and Chinese guests in an efficient, gracious and professional manger, responsible for the management, organization of the Front Office and related functions pertaining to the Korean and Chinese guests, respond and display a high degree of professionalism and integrity as well to a wide variety of people, enjoys dealing with people, computer literate with knowledge of a variety of computer software applications and superior Korean/Chinese written, and oral communication skills.

Position: Executive Housekeeping (1)

Qualifications: 7 years experience and training is required, must have worked preferably at a hotel, responsible for the smooth, efficient, cost effective operation of the Housekeeping Department, inventory control, works closely with Front Desk Assistant Manager to resolve all room discrepancies, possesses good knowledge of all matters relating to the proper administration of the Housekeeping department, provides employee safety training to prevent accidents, maintains quality standards through inspection programs, follows and ensures compliance to all hotel control procedures by staff.

Position: Housekeeping (3)

Qualifications: Minimum of 2 years of experience and training cleaning hotel rooms, ensure clean, orderly attractive rooms in hotels, and must have training cleaning golf facilities, prepare a list of prospective check-outs, investigates complaints regarding housekeeping service and equipment, takes corrective action, operates various mechanized cleaning equipment, responsible for disposal of trash, waste and other disposable materials, conducts inventories to ensure adequate supplies, observe precautions required to protect hotel guests' property, and report theft or found articles to supervisors.

Position: Accountant (1)

Qualifications: 5 years work experience and knowledge of generally accepted accounting principles and procedures and budgetary principles, considerable knowledge of computers and their application in financial and accounting system, ability to prepare clear financial statement, establish tables of accounts and assign entries to proper accounts, use professional judgment, ability to plan, organize and meet rigid schedules and demanding timelines and seasonal workloads.

Position: Information Technology Technician (1)

Qualification: Must have 5 years of experienced and training and a college graduate in Computer science, responsible for installing, maintaining computer hardware, software, networks, have proficient knowledge in computer hardware and software systems and programs, computer networks, network administration and network installations, computer troubleshooting, team building skills, analytical and problem solving skills, decision making skills, effective verbal, presentation and listening communication skills, effective written communication skills, computer skills including the ability to operate graphics and website development programs at a highly proficient level, good time manage.

Position: Information Technology Assistant (1)

Qualifications: Minimum of 2 years of experience and training and must be a college graduate of computer applications and operating systems, PC hardware and trouble shooting, repair procedures, principles and practices of computer and telephone support services, computer hardware and software applications, familiar with information technology policies and procedures, computer operations processing and procedures, communicate clearly and easily with user and vendors of varying levels of technical expertise.

Position: Project Engineer/Facility Maintenance Manager (1)

Qualifications: 10 years of experienced and training, college graduate, is responsible to ensure that all LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort facilities are maintained in the highest of standards in their operation, assists in implementation and coordination of maintenance, repair, renovations of Company owned and leased facilities, monitors contractors compliance to standards for various Company buildings, conducts initial review and evaluates bids for compliance with specifications, report building maintenance needs, respond appropriately to emergencies or urgent issues as they arise, manage and supervise and coordinates the work of the staff and the work of contractors, communicate clearly and concisely, maintain adequate inventory, preventive maintenance and repairs of equipment.

Position: Supervisor, Electrician (1)

Qualifications: Have 7 years of training and experienced, and a college graduate, must have electrical trade qualifications, complies and adheres to the Occupational Safety and Health and Standards and practices, excellent communication and team building skills, must have computer systems skills, perform electrical work as required within their capabilities, maintaining a high standard of workmanship and abide by local statutes, performs skilled electrical installations, undertake modifications to plan & equipment repair electronic components of electrical equipment as required for continued operation, attend to production machinery breakdowns as required.

Position: Mechanic Engineer (1)

Qualifications: Must have 5 years of training and experienced, must have graduate degree, is responsible for all mechanical installations maintenance programs, stress analysis, piping, process plants layout and mechanical building services, responsible in power plant engines and generations, evaluates equipment performance and operating conditions, proficient in the planning and control of work in a multi project, deadline driven environment, deep and thorough understanding of applicable regulatory requirements and industry practices, assumes accountability for the quality of mechanical engineering work.

Position: HVAC Technician (1)

Qualifications: 7 years of experience and training, must have specialized knowledge to analyze and solve complex problems, continuous concentrated mental and visual effort to plan and perform complex work, strong physical exertion, responsibility for cost control, sustained high degree of attention required to prevent damage or waste, repair replace needs necessary to maintain equipment and systems, install heating, air conditioning, refrigeration systems and related equipment for the propose of providing comfort inside facilities, maintains tools.

Position: Building Maintenance (2)

Qualifications: Must have 3 years of working experience and training, must have standard maintenance skills and the ability to apply that knowledge safely in a structured environment, skill in operating maintenance and carpentry tools and equipments, activities and decisions, requires independent actions, judgment in solving common problems, must have tolerance for exposure to unpleasant elements, be able to positively interact with fellow workers, maintains and repairs a variety of building facilities and provides service for common mechanical, electrical, and building system devices.

Position: Assistant Manager, Recreation Facility Attendant (1)

Qualifications: Must have 5 years of experience and training in golf industry, Must be able to communicate and supervise facility attendant employees, inspect golf equipment, structures, or materials, work with the public, assist others, monitor events, coordinates the work and activities of others, develop and build teamwork, knowledge of a second language is a plus, knowledge of the golf sport and rules is a must, generally work a flex schedule, often deal with unpleasant, angry or discourteous customers, work in a group or as part of a team, provide directions to customers, make sure that the customers follow golf etiquette and rules.

Position: Supervisor, Recreation Facility Attendant (1)

Qualifications: Must have 5 years experienced and training and working in a golf industry, must keep things running smoothly, provide information about and the services the Company provides, keep equipment in working order, explain how to use equipment safely, provide information about rules, record details of attendance, reservations, make sure that people follow rules, communicate and supervise facility attendant employees, must be pleasant, neat in appearance, must be punctual and reliable, ability to work well with the public is very important, knowledge of the golf sport, responsible for work outcomes and results of other attendants.

Position: Supervisor, Greens keeper (1)

Qualifications: Must have 7 years of training and experienced, must have worked preferably at a hotel and golf industry, establishes and maintain and repair programs for the golf course and the hotel, evaluates and determines the need for and scope of emergency repairs and supervises staff and contractors in performing work, establishes procedures governing employee and customer's safety, perform grounds maintenance, perform preventive maintenance to the equipment, applies insecticides, herbicides and fertilizers maintains and operate irrigation system, experienced and knowledgeable in tractor operation and mowing.

Position: Greens keeper (14)

Qualifications: Minimum of 2 years experience and training, must have working knowledge at a golf course, knowledge of methods and materials used in grounds and landscaped area knowledge of and ability to use hand and power tools and equipment, ability to operate trucks, light motorized equipment, physical strength, stamina and agility, assists in the construction of new greens, tees, and fairways, lays sod, and seeds tees, greens and fairways.

Position: Nursery Workers (3)

Qualifications: Minimum of 2 years experience and training, must have working knowledge at a golf course, performs routine maintenance on equipment, move containerized shrubs, plants, greens, using wheelbarrows, carts, shovel or tractors, maintain grounds and landscaping, haul and spread topsoil, fertilizer, peat moss and other materials to condition soil, requires to be reliable, responsible, and dependable, pleasant to work with, displays good natured and cooperative attitude.

Position: Fabricator & Assembler (1)

Qualifications: Must have 10 years of training and experience, must be able to fabricates, assembles, installs, and repairs sheet metal products and equipment on the basis of knowledge of system operation, may work with aluminum, galvanized steel, stainless steel, or other sheet metal stock, frequent to constant standing, walking throughout shift on all types of surfaces, maintains a safe work environment must be able to plan, organize, must be able to read and understand technical information, manuals, material safety data sheets, work order.

Position: Heavy Equipment Machinist (1)

Qualifications: must have 5 years of training and experience, performs skilled tasks in the mechanical repair and maintenance of heavy trucks, earth moving, and related construction equipment including road graders, knowledge of hazards and safety precautions of the trade, operation and maintenance requirements of heavy duty construction equipment, work cooperatively with other employees, work safely without presenting a direct threat to self or others, performs incidental welding operations on equipment.

Position: Golf Cart Mechanic (2)

Qualification: high school diploma, 3 years technical training or experienced in mechanical, dismantle engines, using hand tools and examine parts for defects, test and inspect engines to determine malfunctions, to locate missing and broken parts, perform routine maintenance such as cleaning and oiling parts, honing cylinders and tuning ignition system, ability to demonstrate good judgment when dealing with guests or other personnel, able to lift/carry supplies or equipment with frequent reaching, stooping, bending, and kneeling, extensive walking and standing.

Drop off your resume and application at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort at the Front Office, Kagman Road. May submit resume online at: mada@laoaobay.com Deadline to submit Applications is on or before 5:00pm on October 8, 2012. Saipan LauLau Development, Inc., dba LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Texting and driving? Stop it

OK, confess: While you're reading this, at the kitchen table or your desk at work, what else are you doing? Finishing off your oatmeal? Applying last touches of makeup? Texting with friends about tonight's plans?

We understand. Multitasking rules. Impatience is a national affliction. We know, because we suffer from it too.

But when you slip behind the steering wheel, all of that changes. Driving is multitasking. It's paying attention to the cars in front, to the side and behind you, maintaining safe speed, watching for changing traffic lights, staying in your lane, being alert in case, say, a child runs into traffic. Potential hazards can materialize in a heartbeat. A moment's distraction can be fatal.

OK, we're telling drivers what they already know. But many Americans still text and drive, even though it is against the law in many states, including Illinois. They ignore research that shows texting while driving sharply increases the chances of an accident.

AT&T has launched a public education campaign to persuade scofflaws not to text while driving. The slogan is a message all drivers should heed: It can wait.

Derrick Rose of the Chicago Bulls stars in one of the new public service ads. But the TV ad that captured our attention focuses on Wil Craig. In 2008, Craig, then 17, suffered a severe brain injury when the car he was a passenger in hit a tree. The driver, his girlfriend, was texting when she missed the brake and hit the accelerator, Craig says in the ad. "It was 'where r,' literally the word where then the letter r," he says haltingly. "Six letters."

Craig says he "had to be cut out of the windshield." He lingered in a coma for more than eight weeks. He has struggled to learn to speak again.

We know that public education campaigns — and tough laws — can change attitudes and behavior. Check out Illinois' record seat belt use rate — 93.6 percent. Or the dwindling number of Americans who still think drinking and driving is a wink-and-nod offense.

We also know it is hard to kick the texting habit on the road. But there is help. For example: There's a new smartphone app called Rode Dog, designed by a California sixth-grader in a contest sponsored by AT&T. It allows the user to join a "pack" of friends and family, who can check if you're texting while driving. If you are, the other "pack" members can send an audible barking sound to your phone. The barking continues until the texting stops. Peer — or parental — pressure to remind drivers that nothing on the cell phone is worth your attention while on the road. Great idea.

Another app sends an automatic reply when you get a text, alerting the sender that you are driving.

We know that many Americans suffer severe withdrawal pangs if they're not within constant reach of email, Twitter, Facebook, Google, etc. More cars are coming equipped with Internet-connected technology, so motorists can surf the Web. If the car is not moving — as in parked — that's OK. But if you're checking your email while you're driving, you're taking as much of a risk as you would if you were texting. Whether you're distracted by a hand-held phone or a dashboard screen, the result is the same. You are not watching the road.

Remember, six letters nearly killed Wil Craig. Six more letters for those who still text and drive: Stop it.

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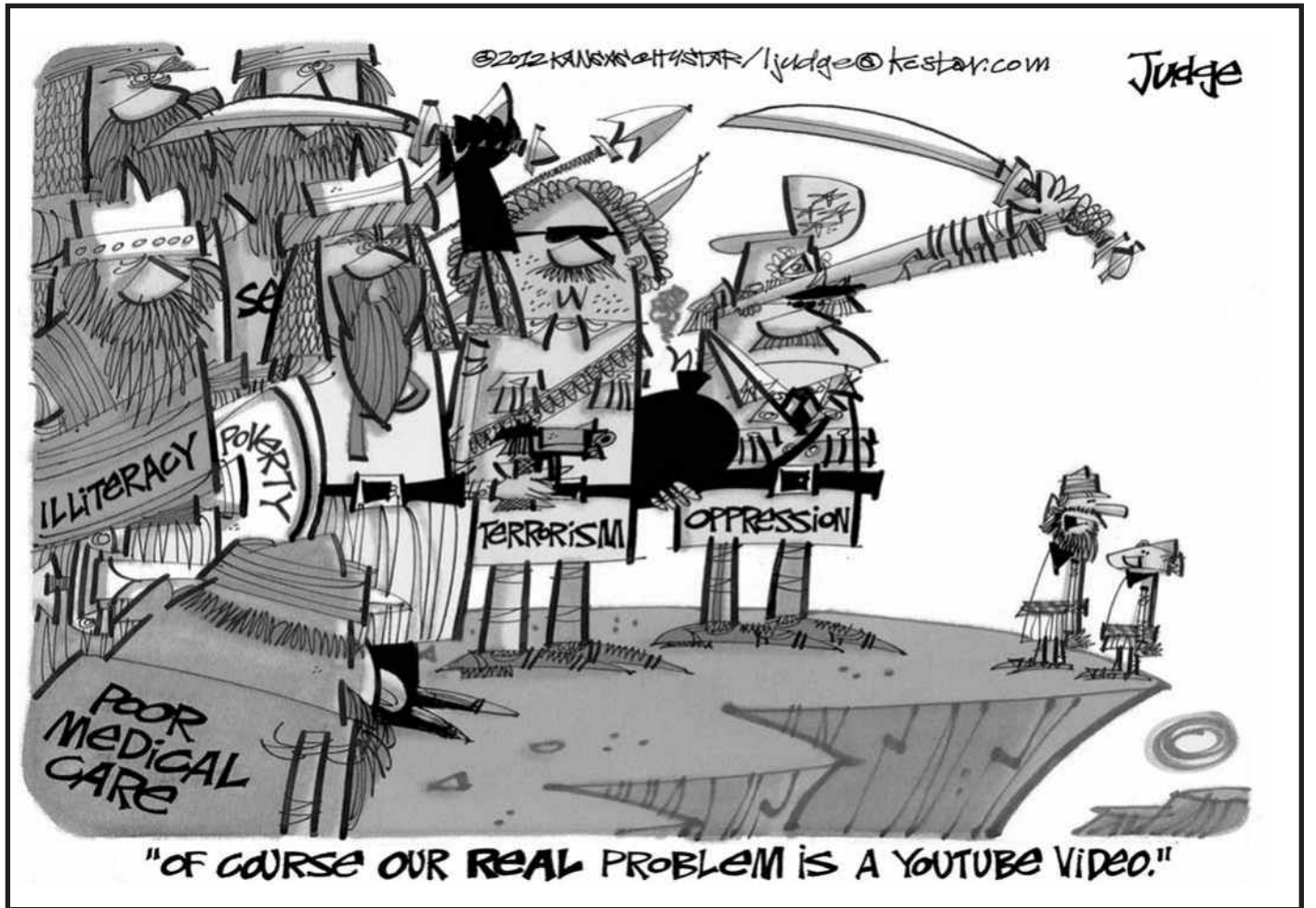


Exhibit A-word: If it's the height of rudeness, it's also our reflexive response to it

Other vulgarities have their defenders, but the "A-word" gets little respect, whether it's referring to someone's anatomy or his character. As a term of abuse, it's Exhibit A for those who bewail the coarsening of American culture. Is it really worth giving any thought to? Actually, yes.

Granted, we should use it sparingly. The word may no longer shock, but it is crude, as it has to be so we can make our feelings fully known when a neighbor starts his leaf blower at 7 a.m. But the discomfort about hearing it shouldn't carry over to hearing about it. Precisely because it is coarse, it's a window on our attitudes about how we should treat each other. And it offers a much more truthful picture of the problems vexing our public life than those simplistic op-ed harangues about a rising tide of incivility and an America split into two nations, the courteous and the crude. In fact, when we use the A-word, we become a citizen of both: If it's the height of rudeness, it's also our reflexive response to it.

Whether we utter or mutter it, the A-word comes immediately to mind when we encounter someone with a culpable obtuseness, a swollen sense of entitlement. I think of a story I heard from a Texas friend who found himself on 9/11 at a Hertz agency in Manhattan amid a crush of people all desperate to get home to their families. A man walked in, pushed his way to the front and asked loudly, "Where's the gold card line?" You can be sure that every person in that room was thinking the same three-word sentence.

Used in this way, the word is actually a rather recent addition to our moral inventory. As a term of abuse, it was invented by World War II GIs—the first military leader tagged with it was George S. Patton—and it wasn't until 1970 or so that it entered general usage, a term you could expect to encounter in Neil Simon plays and Woody Allen movies. It replaced "heel" as a reproach for men who mistreated women, and it nudged aside Holden Caulfield's favorite put-down, "phony," adding a note of abjection and self-delusion that was missing in those earlier words.

But the A-word doesn't simply name a pathology; it prescribes a response to it. When somebody behaves like a jerk, we're entitled to be a jerk in return, with an audible show of disrespect. (You can't apply the word without swearing at someone, after all.) Sometimes we're all but obliged to respond this way. When a friend tells you her husband has been having an affair with the baby sitter, what other word can demonstrate the full force of your indignation and solidarity?

The moral principle inherent here was dramatized in the character of Dirty Harry, so different from the heroes portrayed by John Wayne in an earlier age. Surrounded by A-word archetypes—the officious superiors, the bleeding-heart liberals and, of course, the sociopaths he brings to ground—Harry responds with a volubly sadistic pleasure ("Make my day"), offering all of us the thrill of watching someone do terrible things to someone

By GEOFFREY NUNBERG

Los Angeles Times

*Geoffrey Nunberg, a linguist, is a professor at the UC Berkeley School of Information. His latest book is *Ascent of the A-word*. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.*



who manifestly has it coming.

That principle—call it Dirty Harryism—has become part of the cultural wallpaper. In Donald Trump's "Apprentice" boardroom, and in political campaigns, on talk radio and cable "news" shows, in blog posts and in the comment threads of the Internet, the object is to diminish your adversaries to contemptible jerks, so as to have the satisfaction of provoking and abusing them without any qualms of conscience.

True, every age thinks it's rudier than the one that preceded it, which is why we always describe courtesy as old-fashioned. Yet as historians remind us, public life was pretty vitriolic in earlier times too. In fact, our public discourse is no more scurrilous now than it was in the age of FDR or Lincoln. But those earlier ages couldn't touch us for bad faith or schoolyard tribalism—or for the access that turns Dirty Harryism into a 24/7 spectacle and an online game that anybody can play.

Half a century ago, the columnist Westbrook Pegler could write savagely about Eleanor Roosevelt and compare Jews to geese ("They foul everything in their wake"), but his vituperation and anti-Semitism were heartfelt. He would have been mystified by Ann Coulter's vile-with-a-smile charge that the 9/11 widows were enjoying their husbands' deaths. She didn't care about them; the point of the remark was to enable her political soul mates to revel in the thought of the sputtering indignation it would evoke in liberals.

To label somebody with the A-word is to give yourself permission to respond in kind, on the grounds that he has it coming. We appeal to that principle all the time in daily life, but like the word itself, there's a time and place for it. It may justify your berating that guy who pushes through to the front waving his gold card. It's a little more problematic when it leads people to applaud the congressman who yells "You lie" during a presidential address.

Focus on the A-word and you come to a different picture of the "crisis of incivility." It isn't the sign of a moral breakdown induced by Hollywood, the Internet or the entitlement culture. It doesn't grow out of a dearth of moral feeling but an excess of it, in the corrosive delusions of righteous indignation. As Walt Kelly might have put it, we have met the assholes, and they are us.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Muslim countries' blasphemy laws empower extremists

It's about time. After a week of anti-American violence in the Muslim world over a video that offends Islam, President Obama finally made a rousing defense of free speech, even if it insults religion.

Following the outburst of outrage in Libya and Egypt, American officials repeatedly deplored the video. There should have been more U.S. outrage over a campaign of violence orchestrated by Islamists and abetted by some Muslim leaders.

In his annual address to the U.N. General Assembly on Tuesday, Obama went a good ways toward setting the record straight.

"We do not ban blasphemy against our most sacred beliefs," Obama said. "Americans have fought and died around the globe to protect the right of all people to express their views—even views we disagree with."

"We do so," he went on, "because in a diverse society, efforts to restrict speech can become a tool to silence critics or oppress minorities." He added, "On this we must agree: There is no speech that justifies mindless violence."

Sadly, this is a message key Muslim leaders haven't grasped.

Indeed, both Egypt and Pakistan, the two countries where the most widespread violence was incited in the name of the anti-Islam video, have blasphemy laws that are frequently used to pursue vendettas, target minorities, and curb free speech.

Yet in Pakistan, where the notorious law is most draconian, Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf has called on the United Nations to adopt blasphemy laws outlawing criticism of religion worldwide. He'd do better to confront the disastrous impact of Pakistan's blasphemy law at home.

Just recently, a 14-year-old mentally impaired Christian Pakistani girl, Rimsha Masih, was imprisoned after being accused by a neighbor of burning pages of a children's religious book. It turned out that a village cleric who wanted to drive Christians out of the village had fabricated evidence. The case became so notorious, the charges may ultimately be dropped. But about 600 of her Christian neighbors had

to flee out of fear of reprisals, and she probably can't ever go home lest vigilantes kill her.

Indeed, the governor of Punjab, Salman Taseer, and Minorities Minister Shahbaz Bhatti, a Christian, were killed last year after criticizing the apostasy law in another case involving a poor Christian woman who is still rotting in prison. "Anyone can file a complaint, so there are often ulterior motives for bringing charges," says the Hudson Institute's Nina Shea, co-author of "Silenced: How Apostasy and Blasphemy Codes Are Choking Freedom Worldwide."

Shea says thousands of such cases have been brought since the 1980s. Since Islam covers most issues of ordinary life, apostasy charges can be brought for innumerable reasons, including personal quarrels; the accused can't get bail and may receive the death sentence.

In one notorious case in 2000, a medical professor in Islamabad offended a Pakistani military officer with something he said in a lecture and was suddenly accused of blasphemy. After being held for more than three years, he was finally released, perhaps because he became an Amnesty International prisoner of conscience. Many others aren't so lucky.

"The law empowers extremists within the society," says Shea. Adds the courageous Pakistani parliamentarian Farahnaz Ispahani: "Government after Pakistani government has appeased the extremists, who use the blasphemy laws to stir up the public and enhance their own political power."

Blasphemy laws also threaten to muzzle speech in post-Arab Spring governments, especially those where Islamic parties hold power. In Egypt, the actor Adel Imam was cleared of defaming Islam on Sept. 12, the day after the anti-video protests started. His alleged crimes: his film roles, including one in which he played a corrupt businessman that contained a scene parodying bearded Muslim men, and a second, called Terrorism and Kebab, in which good-hearted Egyptians challenge corrupt bureaucrats. If he hadn't been so famous, he might be doing time.

Earlier this year, two courts rejected blasphemy cases against

By TRUDY RUBIN

The Philadelphia Inquirer

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a Christian media mogul who had formed the leading opposition party. His alleged crime: He tweeted a cartoon of Mickey Mouse with a beard and Minnie with a veil.

This might seem funny if it weren't so serious. Egypt's new president, Mohammed Morsi, who hails from the Muslim Brotherhood, clearly has a limited understanding of free speech. He just instructed his Washington embassy to bring legal charges against the California videomaker and may be indifferent to the dangers of blasphemy laws.

In the words of the late, great Indonesian Muslim scholar and political leader Abdurrahman Wahid, blasphemy laws "narrow the bounds of acceptable discourse in the Islamic world and prevent most Muslims from thinking 'outside the box,' not only about religion but also about vast spheres of life, literature, science, and culture in general."

Even more to the point, attempts by the Organization of the Islamic Conference, or any U.N. bodies, to promote a legally binding global ban on criticism of Islam (or all religions) are out of order. They should be roundly opposed by Obama and other Western leaders. Advocates of one religion can't put a muzzle on free speech worldwide.

As Obama said Tuesday, "The strongest weapon against hateful speech is not repression, it is more speech—the voices of tolerance that rally against bigotry and blasphemy, and lift up the values of understanding and mutual respect."

If Jesus was married, a lot of guys are in big trouble

The news that a Harvard professor has obtained evidence that Jesus Christ may have had a wife could be a problem for married guys everywhere. Really, how do we measure up?

Being the son of God, he'd be perfect. He'd make Ned Flanders look like a slob. The grass would always be cut, the dirty socks always picked up, the toilet seat always down. He would listen. He would not chafe at talks about relationships.

(Note: I am fully aware that there were no lawns, socks or toilet seats 2,000 years ago. Work with me here. Thank you.)

He would remember birthdays and anniversaries. On trips to whatever passed for a mall in the first century After Him, he would carry the bags without complaint. If asked by his wife whether her new robe made her look fat, he would always know what to say and it would not be a lie.

Being a carpenter, he'd be good with his hands and thus everything around the house would be squared away. The shaky table would not have a book under its short leg. New cabinets, dear? No problem. The front door would not squeak. All of those little chores that the rest of us never quite get around to, he would take care of.

One possible point of contention: He was always out with the guys. Many wives would have a problem with that. Probably not his. In fact, if the Harvard professor's evidence stands up, his wife—or at least some woman—was one of his guys.

For those who came in late: On Tuesday, Karen L. King, a professor of early Christianity at the Harvard Divinity School, announced that she was in possession of a scrap of papyrus from the 4th century. It was a fragment of what appeared to be a document written in the Sahidic Coptic language of ancient Egypt. The anonymous owner of the papyrus scrap had given it to King for study.

Among the partial phrases on the scrap were references to a woman named Mary being "worthy of it" and to a woman who "will be able to be my disciple."

Most intriguing of all was the phrase, "Jesus said to them, 'My wife ...'"

Who knows if this "Jesus" was even the real "Jesus"? The papyrus could be another guy named Jesus, a kind of 4th century Rodney Dangerfield trying to work out the "Take my wife—please" joke.

We can believe, but we cannot know. The Sahidic Coptic lan-

guage has been dead for hundreds of years. It is read now by scholars who study ancient writings, including the so-called "Gnostic gospels," accounts of Christ's life and early Christianity that didn't make the cut when the New Testament was being compiled.

As a writer, I am familiar with the butchery of editors who blunt my diamond-edged prose. As an editor, I realize that writers sometimes need certain tender mercies applied to their copy. I further realize that sometimes stuff gets massaged by editors in ways that disguise its original intent.

Thus I have always worried about what got into the Bible and what didn't. I want to know not only who wrote what, but I want to know who edited it and why.

The faithful, of course, believe that the Bible was divinely inspired, and thus God himself was the final editor. I have known a lot of editors who thought they were God. It would be nice to think that one actually was.

So maybe it was he who decided that the Gnostic texts that alluded to Jesus as being married, possibly to Mary Magdalene, should not be part of sacred scripture. But what if it was just a guy with an ax to grind? A guy who thought that women should have a subservient role and weren't worthy of being disciples, much less Mrs. Jesus Christ.

Odds are that Karen King's scrap of papyrus was written by a guy who was just speculating, like the novelist Dan Brown was when

By KEVIN HERRIGAN

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

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he had Jesus married to Mary Magdalene in "The Da Vinci Code." As I was telling Winston Churchill only yesterday, modern writers feel entirely free to make up stuff involving historical figures. It was probably the same way in the 4th century.

In Brown's novel and the subsequent movie, the news of Jesus' marriage to Mary started a bloody feud within the Catholic church, which it certainly could have. In recent decades, the church has stopped teaching that Mary Magdalene was a prostitute before meeting Jesus, but the hooker thing was less of a problem than the wife thing for a church that enforces priestly celibacy.

King's papyrus scrap isn't likely to cause churchly consternation like a novel that sold 80 million copies and was turned into a Tom Hanks movie. If it should, I'll be following it closely. Right after I take out the trash.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Work it out

This has been too exasperating when there is no compromise at all. This is an embarrassment, especially since our economy has failed. Now people will be out of jobs in two days. Do something, do all that is possible and do whatever it takes to prevent the shutdown. The people are relying on their paychecks to feed their family and get their necessities to live in this ailing economy and still you people aren't doing something about the budget's passage. What do we get out of this? If it takes to cut the budget then do it but do not let

the shutdown take over because it is much worse than it is when it will take effect. We all don't understand what's going on! We are all suffering, presently due to the salary reduction, rises in fuel prices, groceries and so forth. We don't want to take that extra risk in this struggling time. There has to be alternatives to avoid this. I hope that by Sunday, there will be actions regarding the passage of the budget. Otherwise we will be out of jobs for the meantime and it will affect those who have so many obligations and who are depending on their salaries. I hope that you all do something about it and not let this go beyond. Compromise and cooperation are all that's needed. Do the best, for the better.






Abigail Manglona

Songsong, Rota

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Northeast winds 5 to 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 84 ▼ 79
Palau	Showers	▲ 84 ▼ 78
Yap	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 79
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 76
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 76
Majuro	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 81

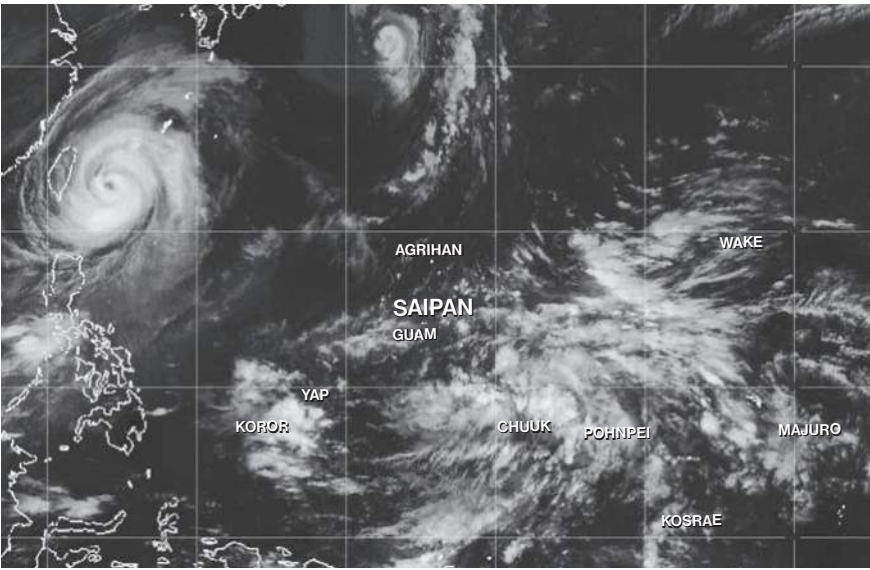
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 64 ▼ 54
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 78 ▼ 48
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲ 83 ▼ 74
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 84 ▼ 74
London	Partly Cloudy	▲ 59 ▼ 43
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲ 89 ▼ 67
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 85 ▼ 77
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 57 ▼ 43
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 86 ▼ 76
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲ 68 ▼ 55
Osaka	Showers	▲ 73 ▼ 67
Paris	Sunny	▲ 63 ▼ 40
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲ 74 ▼ 60
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲ 75 ▼ 65
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲ 78 ▼ 48
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 79 ▼ 62
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 71 ▼ 55
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲ 80 ▼ 72
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲ 72 ▼ 60

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
2:02 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
7:51 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
2:13 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
8:08 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough meanders eastward from near Yap at 12N135E through circulations centered east of Yap near 8N143E and near Chuuk at 9N153E then turns southeastward to end at 2N165E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near these features or just southeast of the Marianas over Chuuk and Pohnpei but just north of Kosrae between 5N and 15N from 144E to 163E. Scattered showers are seen over Koror and Yap between 4N and 12N from 132E to 139E and southwest of Chuuk within 130 miles of a line from EQ145E to 5N152E. Converging trade winds are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over the Marshall Islands from southwest of Wake Island to northwest of Butaritari within 220 miles of a line from 13N163E to 4N173E and from northeast of Butaritari to the date-line or within 170 miles of a line from 3N176E to 7N180. An upper-level trough extends southward from a low centered east of Minami Tori Shima at 24N162E to end at 16N160E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found near this system between 15N and 21N from 155E to 166E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:07 AM	6:08 PM
Sunday	6:07 AM	6:07 PM
Monday	6:07 AM	6:06 PM
Tuesday	6:07 AM	6:06 PM
Wednesday	6:07 AM	6:05 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:22 PM	5:02 AM
Sunday	6:02 PM	5:53 AM
Monday	6:42 PM	6:42 AM
Tuesday	7:23 PM	7:32 AM
Wednesday	8:06 PM	8:22 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPT 23, 2012

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)				ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5	UA5062	3:45am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:15am	1, 3, 5	UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7	UA5062	2:40am	4:20am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5	UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5074	11:30am	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily	UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily	UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily	UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily	DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1	OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily	OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN (SPN)-PUSAN (BUS)				PUSAN (BUS)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
U2608	3:20am	6:35am	4, 7	OZ607	9:25pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM	UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT	OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM	OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN	UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
				UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
				OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN	UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana				ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)			

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Maharlika

Filipino artist tackles bullying in his art

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Filipino visual artist who first made a name for himself in the Northern Marianas art scene recently took his anti-bullying campaign to new and creative heights, sending a potent message through his winning artwork.

San Francisco-based Marconi Calindas emerged victorious in the "New Era Introducing: North America 2012 Global Creative Project" competition for visual artists across the U.S. and Canada with a piece that conveys the harsh realities of bullying.

The project was launched early this year by New Era, an international lifestyle brand with a sports heritage best known for being the official on-field cap for Major League Baseball and the official cap for the National Football League.

Over a thousand artists registered for the competition but only 350 made it to Phase One, wherein they were selected to submit and showcase their

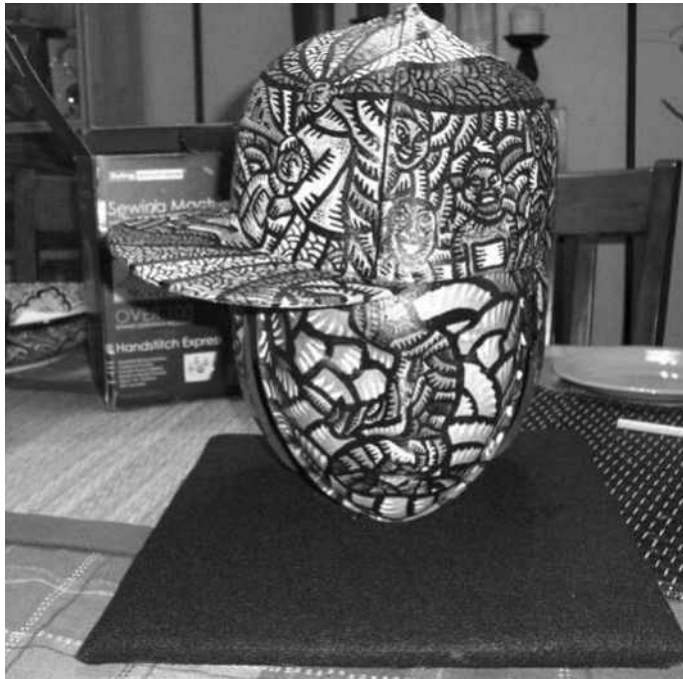
earlier work. Of the 350, only a hundred finalists made it to Phase Two in which the artists were given a blank New Era 59FIFTY cap as their canvas for their masterpieces.

Calindas' award-winning design ranked first among the 70 entries that made it to the exhibition gallery tour across North America in September and October, earning him a \$10,000 grant to jumpstart his career as an artist.

Titled "A Little Too Late," the artwork is composed of four pieces—the New Era 59fifty cap and three separate *papier-mâché* masks—that reveal the harsh realities of bullying and what a victim goes through.

The cap is divided into four frames showing a victim being ridiculed, beaten, and thinking of ways to end his suffering, ending with a frame that shows the victim's lifeless body held by a mother figure. The three masks, which also highlight the victim's pain and anguish, form the shape of a head and serve as the cap's base.

Calindas said he finished his masterpiece in a week's time instead of the two-week time



Photos show Marconi Calindas' winning piece in the "New Era Introducing: North America 2012 Global Creative Project" art competition for visual artists across the U.S. and Canada.

frame given them since his materials arrived late.

Having been bullied himself, Calindas lends credence to the profound and sensitive issue of bullying, which he said must end before more pain is inflicted and more

lives are taken.

"Bullying has to stop and parents should be more watchful of their kids and teach them values that respect one's life," said Calindas.

A former reporter for the *Saipan Tribune*, Calindas cre-



ated the clothing line Wear-A-Marconi in 2007 before relocating to the Bay area in 2009. Since then, his creations have been showcased in various art exhibits throughout California and other U.S. states.

Right now, Calindas preparing for the touring gallery exhibition that begins in New York City on Sept. 29 to 30, Miami on Oct. 6 to 7, Los Angeles on Oct. 13 to 14,

and Chicago on Oct. 20 to 21.

Calindas admits to being scared of the upcoming tour because of the presence of media and art critics. "Hopefully I can pull myself together and just be proud of this achievement and get my message through the crowd."

A native of Laguna, Calindas shares his victory and success with the Philippines and the CNMI, both of which he considers home.

Calindas is also busy working on a book he is co-writing with Adam Cafege and will feature the artist's illustrations. He, too, will gear up for the Pinoy Pride Festival in Las Vegas on Oct. 26 to 28.

His works may be viewed at <http://marconi-calindas.artistwebsites.com/>, <http://www.marconicalindas.com>, or <http://marconi-calindas.fineartamerica.com>.

Deadline to register for overseas voting on Oct. 31

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With only a month to go before it closes, the Philippine Consulate General on Saipan is conducting its final information wave on overseas absentee voting registration and certification.

The consulate calls on all qualified Filipinos on island to become a registered overseas absentee voter so they could cast their ballots for the Philippine national elections on May 13, 2013.

The overseas absentee voting registration, which began on Nov. 2, 2011, will end on Oct. 31, the last day of the consulate, which will close down after over two decades of serving the Filipino community of the Northern Marianas.

Consulate officer-in-charge Jose M. Sto. Domingo noted in a media release issued Thursday that the number of registrants in the CNMI stands at only 320 as of Sept. 15. Of this number, 129 are from Saipan, 105 from Rota, and 86 from Tinian.

The overseas absentee voting registration for the May 2010 national elections recorded 7,169 total registrants, with 46.6 or 3,341 casting their ballots—the second highest turnout among Philippine consulates across the U.S. next to Los Angeles.

The consulate attributes the lower registration turnout to the declining population of Filipinos in the Commonwealth as a result of the federalization of local immigration and the economic recession on the islands.

Guam Consul General Bay-

ani V. Mangibin, in a recent visit to Saipan, said that the Agana consulate will be sending a team to conduct overseas absentee voting on island and would request the Philippine Commission on Elections to do the same to ensure the same voter turnout during next year's election.

"The registration/certification of qualified Filipino overseas absentee voters at the Philippine Consulate General will continue during office hours from 8am to 6pm except holidays and weekends until the closure of the Philippine Consulate General on Oct. 31, 2012," said Sto. Domingo.

Those who may register are all qualified Filipino citizens who intend to vote abroad or who will be abroad on May 13, election day; Filipino citizens who will turn 18 years old on or before the day of the election; dual citizens who have re-acquired or retained their Philippine citizenship under the Citizenship Retention and Reacquisition Act of 2003; and immigrants or permanent residents who execute an Affidavit of Intent to Return upon filing of an application for registration as overseas absentee voter.

Requirements for registration are a valid Philippine passport and an accomplished application form (OAV Form No. 1), which may be obtained at the consulate or downloaded from www.comelec.gov.ph.

For more information, visit the consulate at the fifth floor of Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe, call 234-1848 or 50, fax 234-1848, or email at saipan-pcg@pticom.com.

Dandan student snags Little Miss Philippines-CNMI crown

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Close to 300 spectators flocked last Saturday to the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe where 16 girls ranging in age from 4 to 8 years old vied for the Little Miss Philippines-CNMI 2012 crown.

First grader Bernice Shane Q. Sabino of Dandan Elementary School snagged the tiara after captivating the panel of judges and the audience with her glamour, wit, and swagger at the competition that ranked the young contenders based on their performance in the national costume, talent, and evening gown categories.

Sabino, 5, was also named Best in Gown for her light blue evening frock, and Best in Talent for her take on the late Whitney Houston's *I Will Always Love You*. The daughter of Bernard and Sheryl Sabino, Bernice Shane took home \$300, sash, flower bouquet, among other prizes.

Seven-year-old Jill Anne Marie Mallari was named first runner-up and took home \$200. The Green Meadows apprentice also bagged the Best in Spirit and Best in National Costume awards.

Second runner-up was 8-year-old Desiree Marie Maratas, daughter of Edwin and Corazon Maratas, who won \$100.

Other winners were third



Winners in the Little Miss Philippines-CNMI 2012 pageant pose with their prizes after the competition at the Multi-Purpose Center on Saturday.

runner-up Kezia Christin Arugay, the 7-year-old student also of Green Meadows; fourth runner-up Princess Guban, 8, of Saipan Community School; and fifth runner-up Shaina Heart Dimalanta, who also won Miss Photogenic. All three received Docomo Pacific phones.

The rest of the hopefuls were Angelene Faith Cacadac, Gweneth Sophia Calage, Alyson Red Camacho, Megan Cool, Abby Danielle Crisostomo, Janine Magdanua Deleon Guerrero, Shemariah Sophia Hicaro, Bristhy Maries Hos-

sain, Johanna Mikyla Mogar, and Kate Franz Yap Santos.

The six judges were composed of chair Kimberly Reyes, former Ms. CNMI Universe; Angel Malasarte, 2012 Liberation Royal Princess; Nhemie Cayao, designer; Carol Wong Chan, Canton Restaurant manager and owner; Gemma Batusin, marketing manager for sponsor LD Prime; and Trina Sablan of the Division of Public Health. Jhun Banadera and Flor Miranda served as tabulators.

The community's overwhelming support for has en-

couraged pageant organizers to host the pageant again next year.

"Hopefully, the island economy will pick up so we can organize another pageant that would give young girls in the community a venue where they can hone their talents, enhance their personalities, and get exposure," said organizer and choreographer Joel Vallega. "We extend our appreciation to everyone who bought the tickets and watched the show as well as our generous sponsors and donors who made our event a success."

US urges 'cooler heads' to preserve Asia's stability

NEW YORK (AFP)—The United States on Thursday called for cooler heads to prevail amid regional tensions over disputed island chains, saying it was vital for the world economy to preserve stability in Asia.

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton held a series of meetings with Asian leaders, including talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi, and then separate discussions with the foreign ministers of all countries belonging to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

The stakes are high with simmering tensions between China and Japan over disputed islands in the East China Sea, and a separate row over another archipelago in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea).

"I think it would be fair to say

that all Asian leaders understand that this is the cockpit of the global economy," a senior State Department official said.

"With the United States still recovering, with Europe in a profound slowdown... it is essential that we maintain peace and stability in Asia," he added.

Tensions have escalated in the West Philippine Sea with the Philippines and Vietnam accusing China of stepping up harassment of their fishermen and ships in a bid to exert Beijing's claims to virtually all of the strategic waterway.

Asean foreign ministers in July failed for the first time in the bloc's 45-year history to produce a joint communiqué at annual talks amid divisions over whether to stand up to China over the West Philippine Sea row.

Brunei, which next year will serve as the Asean chair, is one of six nations with various claims — some of them overlapping — over the West Philippine Sea, through which around half of the world's commercial cargo is transported.

Clinton has pushed for Asean and China to agree on a code of conduct that would manage disputes and prevent incidents at sea from escalating into full-blown conflicts.

The State Department official said Asean leaders had described initial talks with China as "important, informal interactions. Positive. Still early phases, but I think initially encouraging."

"The Aseans are I think encouraged by this beginning set of interactions with China. We want it to take shape and go forward."

China is also embroiled in a dispute with Japan over an archipelago in the East China Sea that Beijing knows as the Diaoyu islands and Tokyo calls the Senkaku.

Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi late Thursday accused Japan of stealing the disputed islands as he took the bitter territorial dispute to the UN General Assembly.

"They can in no way change the historical fact that Japan stole" the Diaoyu islands, Yang said in a speech.

In Clinton's meeting earlier with her Japanese counterpart Yang, she "again urged that cooler heads prevail. That Japan and China engage in dialogue to calm the waters," another senior State Department official said.

"We believe that Japan and

China have the resources, have the restraint, have the ability to work on this directly and take tensions down. And that is our message to both sides."

On Thursday, China criticized Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda for his "obstinate persistence" after he insisted there could be no compromise with Beijing on the ownership of Diaoyu islands.

Noda had said on Wednesday that the islands were "an integral part" of Japanese territory "in the light of history and of international law."

Clinton and Yang met in a New York hotel on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly and for what a US official described as a "very full meeting."

They also talked about issues concerning the West Philippine

Seas, North Korea, human rights in China and Tibet and bilateral economic relations.

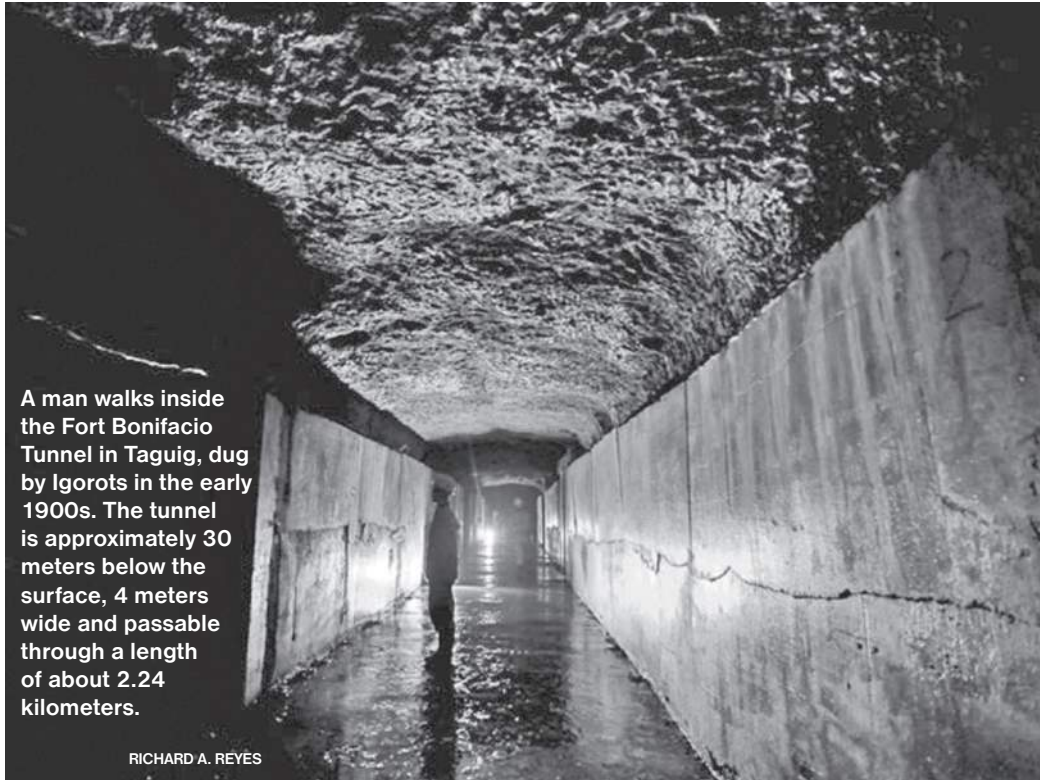
Yang met on Tuesday with his Japanese counterpart Koichiro Gamba, holding what was described as "stern talks" on the bitterly disputed islands but made no breakthrough, diplomats said.

China has been infuriated by the Japanese government's move to buy the East China Sea islands from a private owner.

Japan and China have disputed the islands for decades, but tensions flared again in recent weeks leading to street protests in Chinese cities.

Chinese government ships have sailed into waters around the disputed islands in recent days, along with vessels from Taiwan, which also claims the islands.

War tunnel: History under ritzy Fort Boni



A man walks inside the Fort Bonifacio Tunnel in Taguig, dug by Igorots in the early 1900s. The tunnel is approximately 30 meters below the surface, 4 meters wide and passable through a length of about 2.24 kilometers.

RICHARD A. REYES

By **MARLON RAMOS**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

If you are a shopaholic who frequents the ritzy stores in Boni High Street or a resident of one of the upscale condominium buildings within Bonifacio Global City (BGC), chances are you're missing an important piece of history.

Unknown to many, underneath the swanky commercial and residential district of BGC in Taguig City lies a 2.24-kilometer-long tunnel that witnessed some of the most violent episodes in the country's fight for liberation during the American and Japanese occupation periods.

To honor the historical significance of the structure, the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) is rolling out a master plan to restore the underground passageway, known to the military as the Fort Bonifacio War Tunnel.

The century-old tunnel is known to historians. Cornered Japanese troops holed themselves up inside it toward the end of World War II—until American soldiers used flame-throwers to flush them out.

"It was said that even a year af-

ter the war, Japanese troops were still coming out of the tunnel and that some of them were gunned down by Filipino soldiers who were strategically positioned at the exits of the tunnel," the BCDA said in a statement.

On Thursday, BGC and BCDA officials opened the tunnel to selected members of the media as part of the campaign to promote public awareness of the historic underground passageway.

Arnel Casanova, BCDA president and chief executive officer, said the project was intended to protect the tunnel and

turn it into a heritage site.

"I believe that beyond the economic development that we have seen in BGC, the beautiful cities we build should have a 'soul,'" Casanova said.

"The restoration of this tunnel is a perfect example of how we value our past. It's also a way to immortalize the heroism displayed by the Filipinos who fought and died for our freedom," he said.

With the help of BGC and Fort Bonifacio Development Corp., Casanova said the BCDA would invite private companies to help them finance the reha-

bilitation project.

He said the restoration of the tunnel system "aims to contribute to the people's understanding and appreciation" of the former site of Fort Bonifacio.

"Most of us walk over that area every single day without knowing that we are actually passing by a very vital structure that helped mold our nation," Casanova said.

From its main entry point near the Market! Market! shopping mall, the tunnel located underneath the eastern portion of the BGC now leads to two exit points—one to Amapola Street

in Barangay Pembo and the other to 27th Avenue in Barangay (village) East Rembo, both in Makati City.

Retired Brig. Gen. Restituto Aguilar, former director of the Philippine Army Museum, said American forces ordered the construction of the underground channel in the early 1900s after the Filipino-American war.

Aguilar said the Americans brought in miners from the Cordillera region to lead the excavation and construction of the passageway.

"Since there were no modern equipment then, the Filipinos

used only pick and shovel to dig up the area. They actually spent decades before the tunnel was used by the Americans," Aguilar said.

Aguilar said the burrow was first used as an "underground highway" to bring military supplies, such as medicines, medical equipment and food, to US troops based in Fort McKinley, later named Fort Bonifacio, the main camp of the Philippine Army.

"Because there were no concrete highways then, the tunnel served as the underground highway for the American forces," Aguilar said.



is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions :

Position (1) HOTEL RESORT OPERATIONS MANAGER

Qualifications: College degree graduate with a minimum of 5 years experience in hotel management. Plan, direct or coordinate activities of an organization or department that provides lodging and other accommodations. Also, responsible for developing, establishing and maintaining marketing strategies to meet organizational objectives. Able to work independently. Good organizational and planning skills are essential. Ability to work in remote field office for several months at a time as necessary. Accountable for customer satisfaction and providing high quality service in representing company and also has the ability to speak, read and write in a foreign language preferably in Japanese. Must have knowledge in Front Office Operations, Sales and Marketing strategies, Housekeeping operations and other hotel operations. Also, takes full responsibility of the entire hotel operations in the absence of the General / Resident Manager.

Position (1) FRONT OFFICE MANAGER

Qualifications: College degree graduate with a minimum of 2 years experience as a Front Office Manager. Coordinates front office activities of hotel and resolves problems arising from guest's complaints, reservation and room assignment activities, and unusual request and inquiries. Assigns duties and shifts to workers and observes performances to ensure adherence to hotel policies and established operating procedures. Confers and cooperates with other department heads to ensure coordination of hotel activities. Answers inquiries pertaining to hotel policies and services. May patrol public rooms, investigates disturbances, and warn trouble makers. May interview and hire applicants. May receive and process advance registration payments. May send out letters of confirmation or return checks when registration cannot be accepted. Applicant must be fluent and knowledgeable in speaking, writing and reading in Chinese.

Applications can be obtained from Kanoa Resort's security office located on the Hotel's Backside. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than October 05, 2012. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Kanoa Resort is located next to Saipan World Resort Beach Road, Susupe, Saipan, and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Century Travel Agency dba Century Tours

is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following position:

HR OFFICER (1)

Requires: Associate Degree in Human Resource or Business Management with at least 4 years of HR experience in the Recruitment, Employee Relations and Compensation and Benefits functions. Must be knowledgeable of local and federal employment laws and proficient in MS Office applications especially Excel and Power Point. Ability to speak or understand Chinese Mandarin is an advantage.

Century Travel Agency dba Century Tours is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

Samu't Sari



ENERGY MONTH

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, seated second from left, joins Division of Energy officials and employees for a group photo after signing a proclamation declaring "CNMI Energy Action Month" in October.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



HUMANITIES MONTH

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan) join NMI Humanities Council board members and officials after signing a declaration proclaiming October "CNMI Humanities Month."

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



IN APPRECIATION

Micronesians Legal Services Corp. presents a plaque of appreciation to Lucia Blanco-Maratita, second from left, at the Sept. 26, 2012, CNMI Bar Association meeting. Blanco-Maratita, who served as the representative of the CNMI on the MLSC's board of directors for 12 years, recently resigned. Sean Frink, CNMI Bar Association president, appointed Lillian Ada Tenorio as the new CNMI representative to the MLSC board. Others in photo are, from left, MLSC acting director Ben Weber, Lillian Ada Tenorio, MLSC Marianas Office directing attorney Jane Mack, and MLSC staff attorneys Linda Wingenbach and Dimitri Varmazis.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, center, signs a proclamation declaring October 2012 "Domestic Violence Awareness Month," while House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan), left, and Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), right, look on Wednesday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



FRESH ENDORSEMENT

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) shakes hands with Democratic Party of the NMI chair Edward Manibusan after the party endorsed his candidacy on Thursday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday greetings go out to Daphne Rylee Cruzana, who is celebrating her special day today, Sept. 29, 2012. On your birthday, may every glowing candle on your cake be a wish that comes true. Always be a good girl! Have a great one! Greetings come from your Chan family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



KOREAN SONG CONTEST

The Korean Cultural Center hosted a Korean song practice session at the Korean Community School behind the former mayor's office and the former Winners' factory in Afetnas last week. The center is inviting those who are interested in Korean songs to a second session at 3pm this Friday and Saturday, Sept. 28 and 29, 2012. The center will host a Korean Song Contest at the Multi-Purpose Center on Nov. 23 and 24. For more information, call at 285-2221.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

US economic data appear better on closer inspection

By **CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER**
AP ECONOMICS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—At first glance, a batch of U.S. economic data released Thursday looked dispiriting. Companies slashed orders for factory goods. The government cut its most recent growth estimate. And fewer people signed contracts to buy homes.

Yet a peek beneath the headlines, and a separate report on applications for unemployment aid, suggested that the economy is sturdier than it might appear.

"Don't panic," Paul Ashworth, chief U.S. economist at Capital Economics, said in a research note.

The data released Thursday showed that:

■ Companies cut orders for long-lasting goods by 13.2 percent in August. The drop report-

ed by the Commerce Department was the steepest in more than three years, but it was caused mainly by a plunge in volatile aircraft orders. Excluding transportation equipment, orders fell just 1.6 percent. And a category that reflects business investment plans rose 1.1 percent—its first increase since May.

■ The economy grew at a scant 1.3 percent annual rate in the April-June quarter. That was down from the 1.7 percent rate the government had previously estimated. But the downward revision was due largely to the Midwest drought, which cut farm production. Once the drought eases and crop yields rebound, U.S. farms should boost growth, Ashworth noted.

■ The number of Americans who signed contracts to buy previously occupied homes fell in August from a two-year high

in July. The National Association of Realtors said its index of sales agreements declined to 99.2, just below the reading of 100 that's considered healthy. Still, the index is 10.7 percent higher than a year ago.

Investors appeared to shrug off the reports and focused instead on Spain's plan to slash its budget to show it can meet deficit-reduction targets. The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 72 points. Broader stock indexes also rose.

While the economy looks sturdier than some feared, it's being slowed by chronically high unemployment and stagnant wages. Those weaknesses represent risks to President Barack Obama in his re-election race against Mitt Romney. The economy will be the focus of Wednesday's presidential debate, the first of three debates before the Nov. 6 election.



AP

In this Monday, Sept. 17, 2012, file photo, job applicants wait for the opening of a job fair held by National Career Fairs in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Japan industrial output, core CPI fall in Aug.

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's manufacturing contracted further in August, dropping 1.3 percent from the previous month on weakening auto and electronics output, as anti-Japanese riots in China darkened an already bleak outlook for both economies.

Data released Friday also showed core consumer prices, excluding food, continued to fall last month in another sign that Japan, the world's third-biggest economy, remains in the doldrums.

The weaker industrial output is the fourth straight month of decline and reinforces expectations that Japan's growth will shrink in the quarter that ends in September. It follows a 1.2 percent decrease in July.

Data for the first 10 days of September show exports to

the world plunging 20 percent year-on-year, said Takashi Shiono, an economist at Credit Suisse in Tokyo.

"September exports will probably be very disappointing," he said. The friction with China over disputed islands in the East China Sea, which boiled over into sometimes violent protests in many Chinese cities, will "have an impact on exports in September."

Despite those gloomy trends, other economic data showed the unemployment rate improved slightly, to 4.2 percent, while core consumer prices, minus fresh foods, fell 0.3 percent. That reflects persistent deflation, which also drags on economic growth.

Weak global and domestic demand is weighing on manufac-

turers, particularly electronics makers, who are facing intense competition from South Korean, Taiwanese and other Asian manufacturers. The strong yen, which erodes overseas earnings and makes Japanese-made products relatively more expensive, is also eating into profits.

The lift some Japanese industries got from reconstruction following the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami is waning as rebuilding slows following the initial rush.

Given these factors, Japan's central bank followed the lead of the U.S. Federal Reserve last week in extending its monetary easing, hoping to help spur lending and other business activity while forecasting that the recovery could pick up momentum late in the year.

Nation

California man behind anti-Muslim film ordered jailed

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A federal judge on Thursday determined that a California man behind a crudely produced anti-Islamic video that inflamed parts of the Middle East is a flight risk and ordered him detained.

Citing a lengthy pattern of deception, U.S. Central District Chief Magistrate Judge Suzanne Segal said Nakoula Basseley Nakoula should be held after officials said he violated his probation from a

2010 check fraud conviction.

"The court has a lack of trust in this defendant at this time," Segal said.

Nakoula, 55, was arrested Thursday. He had eight probation violations, including lying to his probation officers and using aliases, and he might face new charges that carry a maximum two-year prison term, authorities said. Nakoula will remain behind bars until another hearing where a judge will rule if he broke the terms

of his probation.

Nakoula wore beige pants and a collared shirt when he was led into the courtroom handcuffed and shackled. He appeared relaxed, smiling at one point before the hearing and conferring with his attorney.

After his 2010 conviction, Nakoula was sentenced to 21 months in prison and was barred from using computers or the Internet for five years without approval from his probation officer.

Mars rover Curiosity finds signs of ancient stream

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The NASA rover Curiosity has beamed back pictures of bedrock that suggest a fast-moving stream, possibly waist-deep, once flowed on Mars—a find that the mission's chief scientist called exciting.

There have been previous signs that water existed on the red planet long ago, but the images released Thursday showing pebbles rounded off, likely by water, offered the most convincing evidence so far of

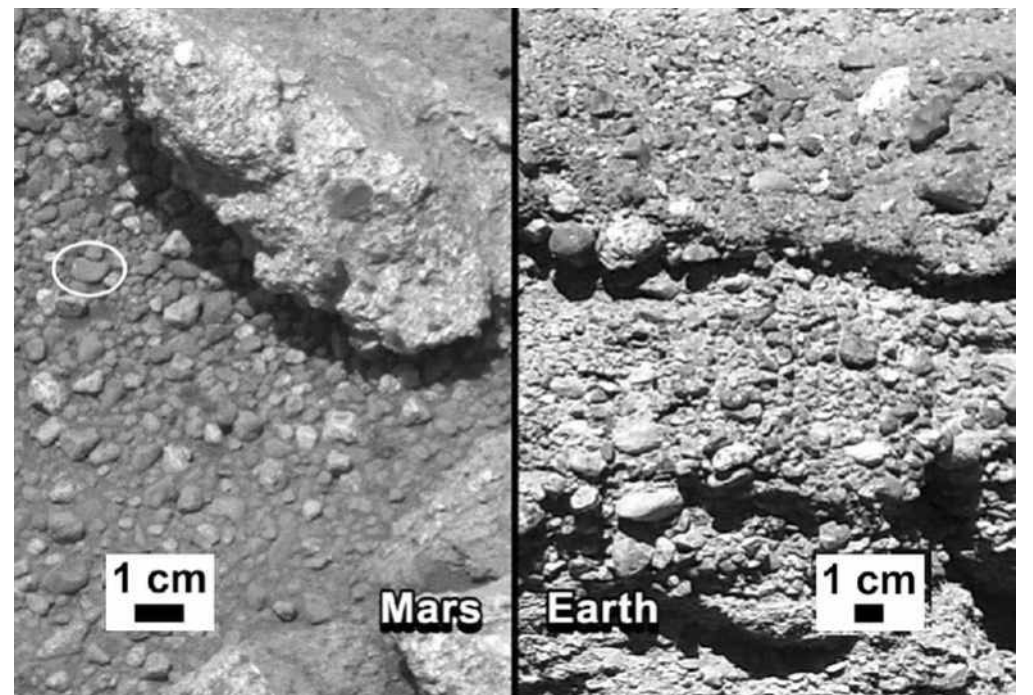
an ancient streambed.

There was "a vigorous flow on the surface of Mars," said chief scientist John Grotzinger of the California Institute of Technology. "We're really excited about this."

The discovery did not come as a complete surprise. NASA decided to plunk Curiosity down inside Gale Crater near the Martian equator because photos from space hinted that the spot possessed a watery past. The six-wheeled rover

safely landed Aug. 5 after a nail-biting plunge through the Martian atmosphere. It's on a two-year, \$2.5 billion mission to study whether the Martian environment could have been favorable for microbial life.

Present day Mars is a frozen desert with no hint of water on its radiation-scarred surface, but geological studies of rocks by previous missions suggest the planet was warmer and wetter once upon a time.



AP

This image provided by NASA shows a Martian rock outcrop near the landing site of the rover Curiosity thought to be the site of an ancient streambed, next to similar rocks shown on earth.

Conn. man kills masked boy, finds out it's his son

NEW FAIRFIELD, Conn. (AP)—A man fatally shot a masked teenager in self-defense outside his neighbor's house during what appeared to be an attempted late-night burglary and then discovered it was his son, state police said.

Police identified the dead boy as 15-year-old Tyler Giuliano, who was shot at about 1 a.m. Thursday in New Fairfield, a town along the New York line just north of Danbury.

A woman who was alone in the house believed someone was breaking in and called the teen's

father, who lives next door, and he grabbed a gun and went outside to investigate, police said.

The father confronted someone wearing a black ski mask and black clothing and then fired his gun when the person went at him with a shiny weapon in his hand, police said.

When police officers arrived, the father was sitting on the grass next to the woman's home and the teen was lying in the driveway with gunshot injuries. The teen was pronounced dead at the scene, police said.

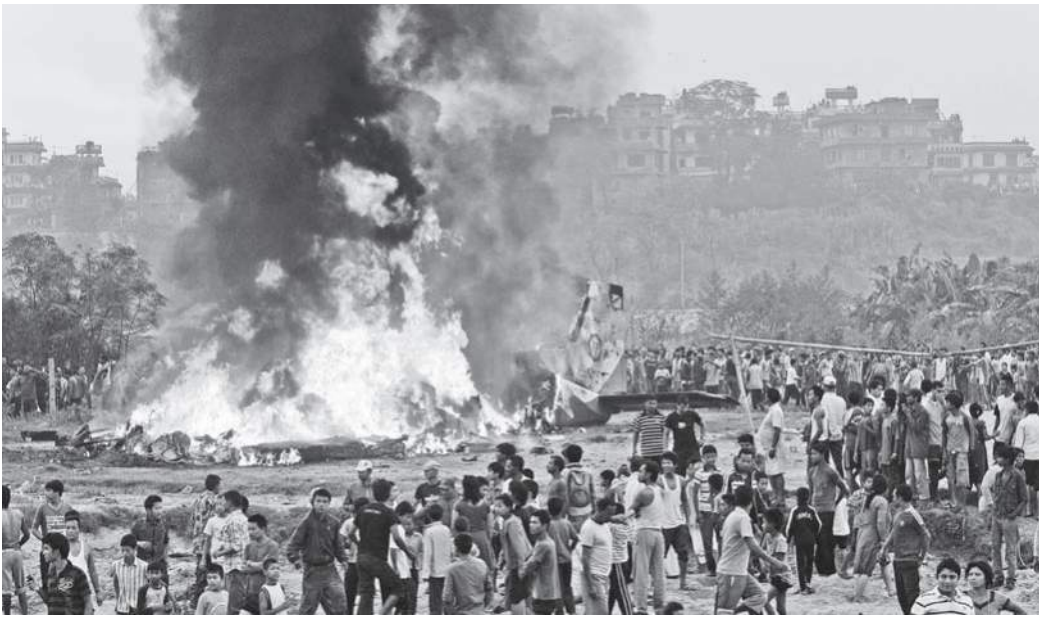
"All in all it's a tragedy," state police spokesman Lt. J. Paul Vance said.

The teen's father, Jeffrey Giuliano, a fifth-grade teacher in town, hasn't returned a message seeking comment on what happened.

The teenager was a student at New Fairfield High School, a short walk from the neighborhood where he was killed.

Superintendent of Schools Alicia Roy sent parents an email about what happened, Danbury's The News-Times newspaper reported.

Asia



Nepalese gather around the burning wreckage at the crash site of a Sita Air airplane near Katmandu, Nepal, early Friday, Sept. 28, 2012.

Airplane going to Everest region crashes, killing 19

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—A plane carrying trekkers to the Everest region crashed and burned just after takeoff Friday morning in Nepal's capital, killing the 19 Nepali, British and Chinese people on board, authorities said.

The pilot of the domestic Sita Air flight reported trouble two minutes after takeoff, and Katmandu airport official Ratish Chandra Suman said the pilot appeared to have been trying to turn back. The crash site is only 500 meters (547 yards) from the airport, and the wrecked plane was pointing toward the airport area.

Investigators were trying to determine the cause of the crash and identify the bodies, and Suman said he could not confirm if the plane was already on fire before it crashed. Cellphone video

shot by locals showed the front section of the plane was on fire when it first hit the ground and appeared the pilot had attempted to land the plane on open ground beside a river.

The fire quickly spread to the rear, but the tail was still in one piece at the scene near the Manohara River on the southwest edge of Katmandu. Villagers were unable to approach the plane because of the fire and it took some time for firefighters to reach the area and bring the fire under control.

Soldiers and police shifted through the crash wreckage looking for bodies and documents to help identify the victims. Seven passengers were British and five were Chinese; the other four passengers and the three crew members were from Nepal, authorities said.

Large number of local people and security forces gathered at the crash site. The charred bodies were taken by vans to the hospital morgue.

The weather in Katmandu and surrounding areas was clear on Friday morning, and it was one of the first flights to take off from Katmandu's Tribhuvan International Airport. Other flights reported no problems, and the airport operated normally.

The plane was heading for Lukla, the gateway to Mount Everest. Thousands of Westerners make treks in the region around the world's highest peak each year. Autumn is considered the best time to trek the foothills of the Himalayan peaks.

The crash follows an avalanche on another Nepal peak Sunday that killed seven foreign climbers and a Nepali guide.

Skorea: Japan must educate people on colonial past

NEW YORK (AP)—South Korea's foreign minister said Thursday that Japan's wartime past will overshadow relations between the two staunch U.S. allies until Japan educates its people about crimes committed during colonial rule.

In an interview with The Associated Press on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly, Foreign Minister Kim Sung-hwan said: "We are victims of Japanese colonial rule."

Kim, speaking a few hours before "serious" talks with Japan's foreign minister, also said South Korea would not compromise in its dispute over the tiny Dokdo islands, called Takeshima by Japan, which has further strained ties.

"When the Japanese government claims Dokdo is their territory, Korean people (take) it as another attempt to invade our country," Kim said. "So that's the Korean sentiment and I hope that the Japanese

government understands this."

But he said South Korea recognizes its shared interests with fellow-democracy Japan, such as coping with North Korea and its nuclear ambitions. Both Japan and South Korea play host to tens of thousands of U.S. troops.

Kim said Seoul wants to expand relations with Japan, including in military cooperation, but only if South Korean public sentiment allows it. In June, they put on hold an intelligence sharing pact after it provoked an outcry in South Korea.

"We have to try to overcome these differences. It's up to the Japanese attitude. While they maintain their attitude ... there should be some limit on the scope of cooperation," he said.

Japan occupied the Korean peninsula for 35 years until the defeat of fascist forces in World War II and also occupied much of China. Japan issued a formal apology in 1993 over its use of

Korean women as sex slaves by its soldiers during the war, but has failed to convince South Korea it is truly contrite.

Kim accused Japanese politicians of denying war crimes and said Japan's failure to educate its people properly about the past was the root cause of its various territorial disputes over islands in the region—including with Russia and Asia's premier power, China.

"It's in sharp contrast with what Germany did to get the support and respect from the neighboring countries" after World War II, Kim said. "If Japan does it, I'm sure they can (get) respect from neighboring countries."

The dispute escalated last month when South Korean President Lee Myung-bak made an unprecedented visit to Dokdo, which drew unusually stern criticism from Japan. South Korea has rejected a Japanese proposal for the dispute to be settled in the International Court of Justice.

World

Israel's Netanyahu draws a 'red line' for Iran nukes

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—In his most detailed plea to date for global action against Iran's nuclear program, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Thursday the world has until next summer at the latest to stop Iran before it can build a nuclear bomb.

Netanyahu flashed a diagram of a cartoon-like bomb before the U.N. General Assembly showing the progress Iran has made, saying it has already completed the first stage of uranium enrichment.

Then he pulled out a red marker and drew a line across what he said was a threshold Iran was approaching and which Israel could not tolerate—the completion of the second stage and 90 percent of the way to the uranium enrichment needed to make an atomic bomb.

"By next spring, at most by next summer at current enrichment rates, they will have finished the medium enrichment and move on to the final stage," he said. "From there, it's only a few months, possibly a few weeks before they get enough enriched uranium for the first bomb."

Israel considers a nuclear-armed Iran to be an existential threat, citing Iranian denials of the Holocaust, its calls for Israel's destruction, its devel-



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel shows an illustration as he describes his concerns over Iran's nuclear ambitions during his address to the 67th session of the United Nations General Assembly at U.N. headquarters Thursday, Sept. 27, 2012.

opment of missiles capable of striking the Jewish state and its support for hostile Arab militant groups.

Iran's deputy U.N. ambassador took the floor at the General Assembly late Thursday to categorically reject Israel's "entirely baseless allegations," insisting that the country's nuclear program is purely peaceful.

Eshagh Al Habib accused Netanyahu of using "an unfounded and imaginary graph" to justify a military threat against Iran.

"Iran is strong enough to defend itself and reserves its full right to retaliate with full force against any attack," he said.

Al Habib urged the international community to exert pressure on Israel to end its "irresponsible behavior" and to join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear weapon party and put all its nuclear facilities under U.N. safeguards. Israel is widely believed to possess nuclear weapons but has never acknowledged it.

World powers urge Syria opposition to unite

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Western nations and allies in the Middle East meet Friday to urge Syria's fractured opposition to unite, seeking a new path for ending the country's conflict amid deadlock between major powers on the U.N. Security Council.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was hosting talks among the Friends of Syria—a coalition which includes the United States, the European Union and the Arab League—on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly, seeking to encourage better cooperation among groups which oppose Syrian President Bashar Assad.

The talks, which don't include Russia, China or Iran, take

place with the Security Council at a stalemate on efforts to halt the 18-month long conflict, which activists say has led to more than 30,000 deaths.

Russia and China have vetoed three Western-backed resolutions aimed at pressuring Assad to end the violence and enter negotiations on a political transition, paralyzing the U.N.'s most powerful body and denting chances of any progress during the General Assembly.

Clinton has decried Assad's "murdering of his own people," while Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov—who will address the General Assembly on Friday—has accused the U.S. and other coun-

tries of encouraging terrorism in their stance on Syria.

French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius has said it is "shocking" that the Security Council had been unable to act, while British Prime Minister David Cameron denounced the deaths of Syrian children as "a stain on those who have failed to stand up to these atrocities," a reference to Russia and China.

Britain's Middle East minister Alistair Burt said Thursday that Friday's meeting would seize on tentative signs that Syria's opposition is becoming more willing to work together. "What we hear is that they do understand the need to make more progress themselves," he said.

Libya says at least 10 militias disbanded

NEW YORK (AP)—Libya's leader says his government has disbanded about 10 militia groups and will continue to take action against Muslim extremists.

President Mohammed el-Megarif said Thursday that the attack on the U.S. Consulate earlier this month that killed

Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans was a final straw. He did not say when the militias were disbanded, or how many remain.

Speaking on Thursday in New York, el-Megarif echoed the remarks of his neighbor, Tunisian president Moncef Marzouki, who announced a crackdown on

extremists after they attacked the U.S. Embassy in Tunisia.

Both countries face emboldened extremists trying to impose their own, harsh version of Islamic law. The problem is worse in Libya because many are armed with weapons they used to bring down former ruler Muammar Gadhafi last year.

YoungStyle

Halloween attractions: From pumpkins to zombies

By **BETH J. HARPAZ**
AP TRAVEL EDITOR

NEW YORK (AP)—Too old to trick-or-treat? Busy the night of Oct. 31? That's OK, because Halloween has become a seasonal holiday, with attractions and activities for all ages from late September through early November.

Many cities now have local haunted house attractions, community zombie walks and ghost tours. Amusement parks small and large revamp for the month of October with faux graveyards, haunted trails and actors dressed like freaks. Some attractions—like Universal's Halloween Horror Nights—are so creepy they are not recommended for guests under 13.

Other entertainment venues—from Disney parks to zoos, museums, aquariums, and even indoor water parks like Great Wolf Lodge resorts—host Halloween events geared to younger kids.

"Haunted and seasonal theming is growing in popularity not only for theme parks and amusement parks, but also at water parks, zoos, aquariums, museums, science centers and family entertainment centers," said Colleen Mangone, spokeswoman for the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions. "So families have a lot of choices for celebrating the Halloween season at parks and attractions."

Here's a sampling of attractions, experiences and events around the country that take place around Halloween or are themed on the holiday.

PUMPKINS, PARADES AND ZOMBIES

Get ready for the end of the world if you're planning to attend New York City's Village Halloween Parade. This year, the theme for the event is the Mayan calendar, which ends on Dec. 21. The annual parade draws 2 million spectators and 50,000 participants—many of whose costumes will vary from the official theme—and stretches from Spring Street to 16th Street along Sixth Avenue, starting 7 p.m. on Oct. 31.

A few signature events celebrate that hallowed Halloween symbol, the pumpkin. The granddaddy of pumpkin-throwing contests, the World Championship Punkin Chunkin, is scheduled for Nov. 2-4, in Bridgeton, Del. And on Oct. 20, the streets of Keene, N.H., will



This undated image released by Disney shows orange fireworks exploding over Cinderella's Castle while illuminated pumpkins are projected with light during the "Happy HalloWishes" fireworks show at Magic Kingdom in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. AP

be lined with carved, lit jack-o-lanterns at the annual Keene Pumpkin Festival.

From college campuses to main streets, zombie walks are held year-round, but many of them take place this time of year and are surprisingly family oriented, with little kids, teens and grown-ups alike donning bloody rags and feigning limps in homage to the living dead. Find one near you: <http://www.zombiewalk.com/forum/index.php>.

VOODOO MUSIC EXPERIENCE

New Orleans' annual Voodoo Music Experience—<http://thevoodooexperience.com>—planned for Oct. 26-28 in City



This image provided by Universal Orlando Resort shows actors portraying zombies at an attraction themed on the AMC show "The Walking Dead" at Universal's Halloween Horror Nights in Orlando, Fla. AP

Park, offers a mix of big names like Green Day and Neil Young plus local acts like the Lost Bayou Ramblers. This year for the first time, tent-camping will be available for concert-goers. Tickets start at \$90 for one-day admission, \$175 for three days, with packages for VIP, parking and camping. Though there's no formal connection between the festival and Halloween, some people dress up and the concert vibe builds on New Orleans' voodoo heritage.

HAUNTED ATTRACTIONS

Here are the top 13 haunted attractions from HauntWorld.com: 13th Gate, Baton Rouge, La.; Netherworld, Atlanta; The Darkness, Atlanta; The Beast/Edge of Hell, Kansas City, Mo.; House of Torment, Austin, Texas; Cutting Edge, Austin, Texas; Bates Motel, Philadelphia; Dent Schoolhouse, Cincinnati; The Asylum, Denver; 13th Floor, Phoenix; Headless Horseman, Ulster Park, N.Y.; Erebus, Pontiac, Mich.; and Nightmare on the Bayou, Houston. Many other cities have haunted attractions as well, from Blood Manor in Lower Manhattan to Apocalypse 3D in Jacksonville, Fla.

AMUSEMENT PARKS

Halloween brings crowds to amusement parks that rival those on peak summer days, so be prepared for sold-out tickets and long lines, especially on weekend nights.

Cedar Point has Hallo-Weekends in Sandusky, Ohio; Busch Gardens has Howl-O-Scream in Tampa, Fla., and Williamsburg, Va.; Six Flags has Fright Fests in 13 parks, Hersheypark in the Dark takes place in Hershey, Pa., and Coney Island in Brooklyn, N.Y., is featuring Nights of Horror at Luna Park.

Universal theme parks in Florida and California go all out with their Halloween Horror Nights, <http://www.halloweenhorrornights.com/>. This year park guests on both coasts will encounter flesh-eating zombies inspired by the AMC show "The Walking Dead," about a band of humans

surviving the zombie apocalypse, with guests at Universal Hollywood Studios dropped off by the park's Terror Tram to wander the ghoulish-filled studio backlot. Both parks will also feature demonic beings from the video game and movie "Silent Hill," along with shock-and-horror attractions inspired by heavy metal rocker Alice Cooper.

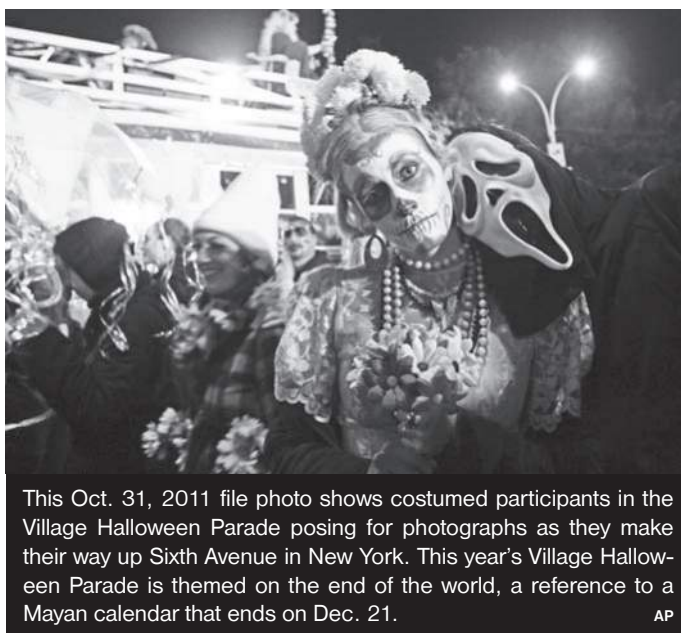
Also awaiting scare-seekers at Universal Orlando: a Las Vegas wasteland covered with nuclear ooze, designed by the entertainers Penn & Teller; an abandoned house, Dead End; an ancient European cathedral, Gothic, where stone gargoyles come to life; and a House of Horrors featuring classic monsters from Universal films like the Mummy, Frankenstein and Wolfman.

At Universal Studios Hollywood's Horror Night, park-goers can get additional thrills and chills in mazes themed on the Texas Chainsaw Massacre and on La Llorona, a Latin American legend about a woman weeping for her dead children.

For younger children, consider Disney World's Mickey's Not-So-Scary Halloween Party at the Magic Kingdom in Florida and Disneyland's Mickey's Halloween Party in Anaheim, Calif. The events offer trick-or-treating, characters in costume, kids' dance parties, parades and fireworks in orange and green; <http://disneyland.disney.go.com/special-offers/mickeys-halloween-party/> or <http://www.disneyworld.com/halloween>.

ROOM WITH A BOO

Historic hotels pride themselves on their pasts, and sometimes that includes a spooky story or two. The Hotel Galvez in Galveston, Texas, which has been featured on "Ghost Lab" on the Discovery Channel and "Ghost Stories" on the Travel Channel, offers a ghost tour, room for two and dinner at \$229 a night Wednesdays and Thursdays through October. Ghost tour packages at other Historic Hotels of America properties: <http://www.historichotels.org/hotel-deals/featured-packages.php>.



This Oct. 31, 2011 file photo shows costumed participants in the Village Halloween Parade posing for photographs as they make their way up Sixth Avenue in New York. This year's Village Halloween Parade is themed on the end of the world, a reference to a Mayan calendar that ends on Dec. 21. AP

Riddle Card

1. Why does a baby pig eat so much?
2. What nation produces the most marriages?
3. When is a pig like ink?
4. What do we often catch yet never see?
5. Why is a lawyer like a crow?



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Answers: 1. To make a hog of himself. 2. Fascination. 3. When you put it in a pen. 4. A passing remark. 5. Because he likes to have his cause (cows) heard.

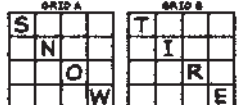
DON'T GET SNOWED! To solve this problem, replace the letters in the AlphaMath problem pictured with the digits 1 through 9, so that you have a correct addition problem. The same letters get the same digits. See if you can get a higher total than we did.



Our Answer: S=8, B=9, N=4, O=3, W=2, P=7, L=5, C=1, E=9, A=6, (8432 + 7532 = 15964)

GET A GRIP ON THIS PUZZLE! Pictured below are two puzzle grids for you to fill in. Hints are given for each word. The words in grid A contain the same letters as the corresponding words in grid B.

1. Like a chair.
2. A state of irritation.
3. Faster than a walk.
4. To start again.



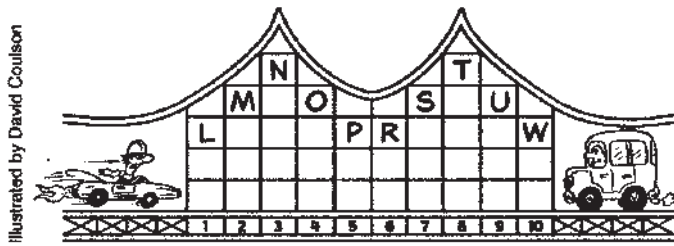
1. Afternoon refreshments.
2. Containers.
3. A legal term.
4. Decrease in size.

Answers: 1. Seat-bass. 2. Sniffles. 3. Trick-ton. 4. Answer-wane.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

A WORD BRIDGE



Illustrated by David Coulson

The bridge above contains 10 supporting words. We give you the first letter of each, plus plenty of hints.

1. A garland of flowers.
2. A tailless cat.
3. Sound of a horse.
4. To flow out slowly.
5. A type of nose shape.
6. Slang for marvelous.
7. A fortuneteller.
8. A female domestic cat.
9. Native American people.
10. A trap.

Answers: 1. Let. 2. Manx. 3. Neigh. 4. Ooze. 5. Puff. 6. Rad. 7. Seen. 8. Tabby. 9. Utes. 10. Web.

Strange BUT TRUE

by Samantha Weaver

■ It was American author James Thurber who made the following sage observation: "Humor is emotional chaos remembered in tranquility."

■ If you're a fan of the original "Wizard of Oz" movie, you might be surprised to learn that the actress who played Glinda the Good Witch, Billie Burke, was 54 years old when the film was shot.

■ The award for the most needless war in history could very well go to Paraguay, whose president, Francisco Solano Lopez, believed himself to be an excellent tactician. He was a great admirer of Napoleon Bonaparte and wished to emulate the French emperor, but he had no wars to fight. To remedy the situation, in 1864 Lopez declared war on all three of his neighboring countries, Uruguay, Argentina and Brazil. His tactical abilities seem to have been of little use, however; it is estimated that 90 percent of Paraguay's male population was killed during the course of the war.

■ During this time of election madness, "misology" could be a useful word to know. It means "hatred of reason."

■ French novelist Marcel Proust's magnum opus, "Remembrance of Things Past," has been hailed as a literary masterpiece, but not everyone was a fan at first read. As Proust was trying, unsuccessfully, to find a publisher for his seven-volume work, one publisher said, "I may be dense, but I fail to see why a chap needs 30 pages to describe how he tosses and turns in bed before falling asleep." The author finally published the first volume with his own money; after the book was hailed as a masterpiece by critics, the same publishers who had rejected Proust competed for the opportunity to print the other six volumes of his work.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "Before I got married I had six theories about bringing up children; now I have six children and no theories."—John Wilmot

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MAGIC MAZE • CARS WITH NAMES

I M K N E L L Y B E L L E I F
G N A B G N A B D B T P E P E
C E Z X W U S Q O S N L B J L
H E N H F D C I A A Y W E V I
R T I E L I B O M S E U L B B
I S Q B R P T T I L L U B N O
S L K I R A H C F E C B M Z M
T T I K B E L E A N O R U Y T
I W V L U S H L R Q P N B M A
N L E J Y T U A E B K C A L B
E M O T A M O T D E P I R T S

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions—forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Batmobile	Bumblebee	General Lee	Nellybelle
Black Beauty	Christine	Herbie	Pepe
Bluesmobile	Ecto-1	Kitt	Striped Tomato
Bullitt	Eleanor	Melba Toast	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

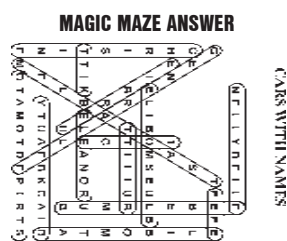
The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	×		−		22			
+		−		÷				
	+		+		14			
÷		×		+				
	×		−		12			
4		14		15				
1	3	4	5	6	7	7	8	9

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GO FIGURE ANSWER

	15	14	4
12	9	7	3
	+	×	÷
14	1	5	8
÷	−	+	+
4	×	7	4

Dachshund's odd behavior

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: When we give my miniature Dachshund, "Peg," a chew treat, she takes it and walks all over the house crying. She will stop and "bury" it in different places, under a blanket or behind things, then pull it right back out and continue the process again and again for a while before she finally settles down and begins chewing it. We were wondering what is going on in her head that results in this behavior.—Curious Doxie Mom



a toy (cover it with a pillow, say) and have her find it. You can even go so far as to build a sandbox out back where she can bury and dig up toys during play times, under your supervision. Don't let her dig in other parts of the yard, though; if she starts that up, distract her and give her something else to do (like teaching basic obedience commands) or bring her back to the sandbox to dig.

DEAR DOXY MOM: Peg's behavior has all the earmarks of instinctive behaviors applied to a specific item (the chew treat). Dachshunds are notorious diggers—it's part of what they were originally bred for, as working dogs that would root out vermin like moles. So it's not too surprising that she does this with her chew toys. The crying seems like a way of announcing possession, like "hey, this is mine, I got it, check it out!" rather than distress.

If the behavior happens only at treat time and doesn't bother you or harm the furniture, it's up to you whether to let it continue. However, it sounds like Peg needs more stimulation in her life. Try playing games where you "bury"

Send your questions or tips to ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. For more pet care-related advice and information, visit www.pawscorner.com.

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Play indoor hopscotch with carpet squares

Hop, skip and jump onto your own hopscotch game everyone can play indoors using sample carpet squares. It's a great way to let out energy and get some exercise when the kids are cooped up on a rainy or snowy day. If you live near a carpet store, ask for discarded sample squares, which are usually free of charge. Choose samples that are approximately 10 inches by 12 inches in a variety of fun, playful colors. You'll need at least 10 for a standard game of hopscotch.

When you get home, cut rubber shelf liner into 10-inch squares the size of the carpet squares. Glue the shelf-liner pieces onto the backsides of the carpet squares to help keep the squares from slipping and skidding around as the kids jump.

Paint the numbers 1 through 10 on the tops of the squares using acrylic or latex paints. When dry, grab some flat stones for markers, and the kids will be ready and eager to play. Or, while the kids are waiting for the paint to dry, they can make their own personalized game markers. Cut out school pictures of each child who is going to play hopscotch, and glue the photos onto one side of a flat frozen-orange-juice lid with smooth sides. When it's time to play, toss it "face up" onto a square.

To play, set the squares on the floor in a hopscotch pattern, and hop away! Or invent your own games and encourage your kids to practice

Donna's Day Creative family fun

by Donna Erickson

their numbers while they play. Join in with the kids and enjoy one of the oldest and simplest children's games

around. Like playing jacks, you might quickly remember that you were either good at it and loved to play ... or not!

When the game is over, pick up the squares of this portable hopscotch and stack them neatly

in a cupboard or closet until another indoor play day.

Alternative idea: Instead of a portable hopscotch, tape the squares together on the backside in the formation you choose using duct tape.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

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Life & Style

Swimmer Ryan Lochte picks training over Tinseltown

By **SANDY COHEN**
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—With his camera-ready good looks, quirky catchphrases and funky fashion choices, swimmer Ryan Lochte parlayed the five medals he won at the 2012 Olympic Games into a burgeoning media career.

But the 28-year-old athlete says he's back in the pool training for future competitions and only embraced Hollywood to raise his sport's profile.

"My main goal is to make swimming bigger than what it is, or what it was back in 2008, and the only way I can do that is by going and doing cameos, being on talk shows, doing all those little things to help bring people aware that like, just bring them into swimming more," Lochte told The Associated Press in an interview Wednesday. "Honestly, the only time you ever hear about swimming is during the Olympics. I say to myself and to other people: Why can't swimming be like the NBA or the NFL or something like that, because we do have those big championship

meets once a year, so why can't we have that (attention)?"

Lochte has been among the most visible Olympians to emerge from the summer games in London.

He's worked as a fashion correspondent for TV's "Extra" during New York Fashion Week, filmed cameos for "30 Rock" and "90210," served as a presenter at the Alma Awards, introduced Lil Wayne on stage at last week's I Heart Radio concert in Las Vegas and was spoofed by Seth MacFarlane on the season opener of "Saturday Night Live."

He's also using his heightened profile to help raise funds for Water for People, which provides clean drinking water sources to developing nations that lack them. Lochte and fellow gold-medal swimmer Conor Dwyer co-star in a new public-service announcement for the nonprofit group.

Lochte said he was "honored" to lend his famous face to the cause because "water is practically part of my life."

Still, on-camera work isn't easy. "I can go up on the blocks and swim in front of millions and mil-



In this Sunday, Sept. 16, 2012 file photo, Ryan Lochte arrives at the ALMA Awards in Pasadena, Calif.

lions of people, no problem, and perform at my best. Like, that's easy. But getting in front of a camera and doing a little acting? That is nerve-racking," he said. "I did a first cameo for '90210' and I was completely nervous... A lot of stuff comes into play when you're acting. There's like different places where you have to be, different facial expressions, hand gestures, just everything comes

into play, just for like one little scene. It's crazy."

He felt a little better on "30 Rock."

"I was working with Alec Baldwin, who's a tremendous actor, and he helped me out," Lochte said. "He was just like, 'Be yourself.' And he kind of made it on set a little more easy to work with because he was just goofing off the whole time."

And what about MacFarlane's "SNL" swipe? The "Family Guy" creator hosted last week's episode and played Lochte as a dimwit who couldn't put a sentence together.

Lochte says he's heard from "Saturday Night Live" but plans to let the whole thing go.

"I'm going to let whatever Seth MacFarlane did, I'm just going to let it be and just move forward," he said. "But anytime Seth wants to race me in a pool, I'll be more than happy to."

And though Lochte is focused on preparing for his next competition in December, if Hollywood calls, he'd answer.

"Oh yeah, of course," he said. "I had a blast doing it. If it fits into my training, I'll do it."

Girlfriend refuses to see man's writing on the wall

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend of one year has told me he needs to focus on getting his life together—getting a better job, concentrating on his career and finding himself. At this point in his life, he knows he can't provide for me and give me what I want, which is to settle down in a few years.

He said he is unsure when he will have his life together and he doesn't want me to wait for him. He feels he needs to be "selfish" now and focus only on himself. We have talked about breaking up, and while he has faith that we will be together again, I can't bring myself to end things with this amazing man.

AFRAID TO LET GO

DEAR AFRAID: When a man says he wants to focus only on himself and he doesn't want you to wait for him, what he is really saying is, "It's over." While the prospect of moving on after having invested a year in the relationship may be anxiety-provoking, at this point, you really have no choice. And don't expect to "be together again" anytime soon because his road to self-discovery could take a long, long time if it happens at all. Please accept my sympathy for your heartache.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am a 13-year-old boy. My dad and I have a disagreement. I have been throwing away the lunches my mom packs for school because I don't like them and buying school lunches. I realize this was ungrateful and dishonest, and I regret doing it.

As a punishment, Dad won't let me go to one of my best friends' birthday party. I'm fine with being punished, but I think this punishment is unfair to my friend because he doesn't get to have me at his party. Instead, I think it would be better to be grounded or made to do extra chores. Who's right?

NORMAL TEEN IN ORINDA, CALIF.

DEAR TEEN: You are a born negotiator. Instead of taking your punishment, you're trying for a plea bargain. I wouldn't be surprised if in the future you become a successful lawyer.

However, regarding your question—I'm not getting in the middle of this one. And I'm pretty sure that this is a punishment you won't soon forget. Bon appetit!

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My aunt has been diagnosed with a progressive form of dementia and has had to be permanently hospitalized. She is no longer able to perform basic life functions and also has violent outbursts. Her prognosis is not good, and she'll likely die within a year.

I'm engaged and getting ready to send out invitations to my wedding. However, I'm unsure how to address the invitation to my uncle.

My aunt will almost certainly be alive at the time of my wedding, but there is no possible way she can attend. It seems wrong to ignore her existence and address the invitation only to "Mr. John Smith." But it feels equally wrong to address it to "Mr. and Mrs. John Smith," knowing she cannot attend. Your advice would be greatly appreciated.

POLITE BRIDE-TO-BE IN CONNECTICUT

DEAR POLITE BRIDE-TO-BE: Address the invitation to both your aunt and uncle, but when you do, include a sweet note saying you understand that she won't be able to attend, but hope that he will be able to join you on your special day. I'm sure it will be appreciated.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Rowling launches novel to fanfare, mixed reviews

LONDON (AP)—After months of hype and anticipation, J.K. Rowling's first novel for adults has appeared, swept into the arms of hopeful booksellers and an army of grown-up Harry Potter fans eager to find out what his creator has done next.

A gritty and darkly humorous tale of ugly realities in a pretty English village, "The Casual Vacancy" seems a long way from the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, and reviewers gave it a mixed reception. But Rowling said Thursday she wasn't worried about the response.

"I've had my books burnt," said the author, whose magical stories were condemned as Satanist by some Christian groups. "I've got quite a way to go to upset people that much with 'A Casual Vacancy.'"

A story of ambition, envy and rivalry, the novel recounts the civic warfare sparked in the fictional Pagford when the unexpected death of a town official leaves a vacancy on the governing body. Characters set on a collision course range from the affluent lawyer Miles Mollison to the Weedons, a ramshackle clan living in The Fields, the run-down housing project on the edge of town.

Rowling told a 1,000-strong audience at London's Southbank Centre that the idea for the book—"Local election sabotaged by teenagers, basically"—came to her on a plane several years ago.

Writing for a more adult readership, she said, had been "freeing"—though "in other senses it's a challenging book,"



British writer J.K. Rowling poses for the photographers with her new book, entitled: 'The Casual Vacancy', at the Southbank Centre in London, Thursday, Sept. 27, 2012.

told from multiple viewpoints.

Rowling said the book's focus on teenagers, the heart of Pagford and of the novel, was not a million miles from her previous work—although these troubled and profane youngsters are "not Harry, Ron and Hermione."

"They are very different teenagers," Rowling said. "They are contemporary teenagers."

The book's sex and swearing have drawn the most comment so far—some audience mem-

bers were startled to hear the F-word pass Rowling's lips during Thursday's reading. But the presence of death is perhaps the book's most adult element, and one that loomed over Harry Potter's world, too.

"Death obsesses me," Rowling said. "I can't understand why it doesn't obsess everyone. Think it does. I'm just a little more 'out.'"

Five years after the last Potter book appeared, Rowling remains

the world's most successful living writer. The lines were shorter and the wizard costumes missing, but "The Casual Vacancy" appeared to some of the same fanfare that greeted each Potter tome, with stores wheeling out crates of the books precisely at 8 a.m. as part of a finely honed marketing strategy.

And Rowling retains the intense loyalty of Potter fans. In contrast to the tight security that preceded the book's release, the atmosphere at Thursday's reading was warm; it felt like a reunion. Several audience members asked Potter-related questions, which Rowling answered at length. One young man, wearing a "Rowling is our Queen" T-shirt, asked if he could give her a present. Rowling accepted it graciously.

Many in the crowd were young adults who had grown up on Harry Potter and we keen to follow her wherever she wanted to go.

"She's been such an inspiration to everyone," said 18-year-old university student Milly Anderson. "She's not just influenced people's childhoods—she's molded them."

Anderson said she was loving "The Casual Vacancy"—once she'd got over the change from stories of the boy wizard and his Hogwarts chums.

"There's swearing and sex," she said. "It's a bit of a shock."

"The Casual Vacancy" is already at No. 1 on Amazon's U.S. chart, and bookmaker William Hill put 2-1 odds on it outselling "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows," which shifted 2.6 million copies in Britain on its first day.

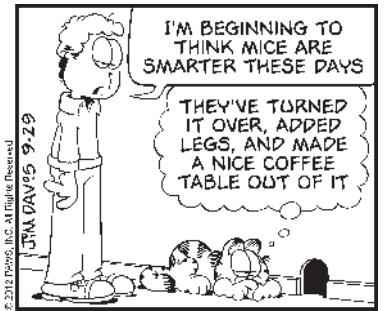
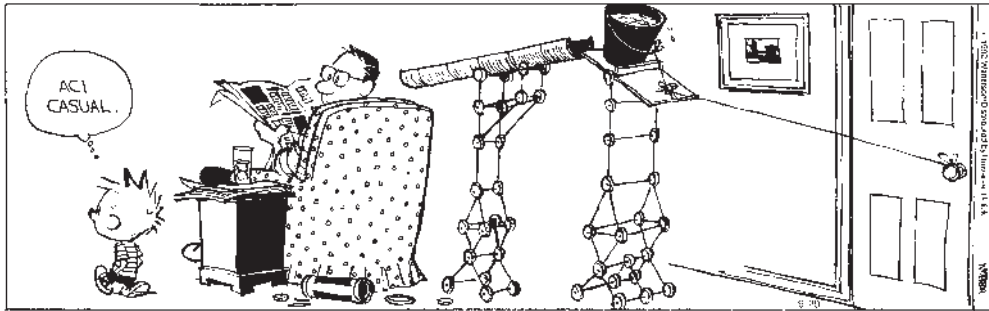
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

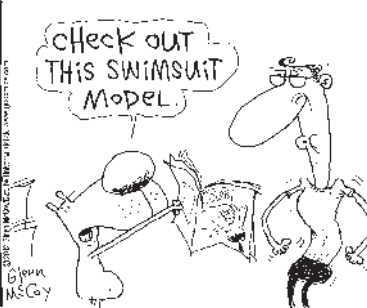
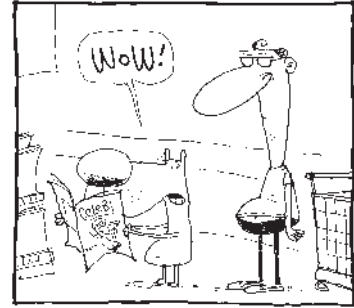
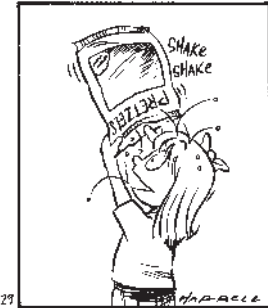
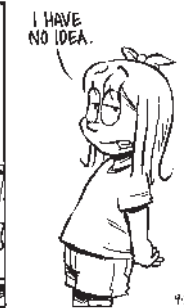


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Blonde shade
4 Unkempt one
8 Old portico
12 Adversary
13 Hemingway nickname
14 Fresh-water fish
15 Every crumb
16 Court-room call
17 Leak slowly
18 Couch potato's gizmo
21 Supporting
22 Feedbag morsel
23 Bad lighting?
26 Firmament
27 Explanation
30 At the home of
31 Feathery accessory
32 Oliver Twist's request

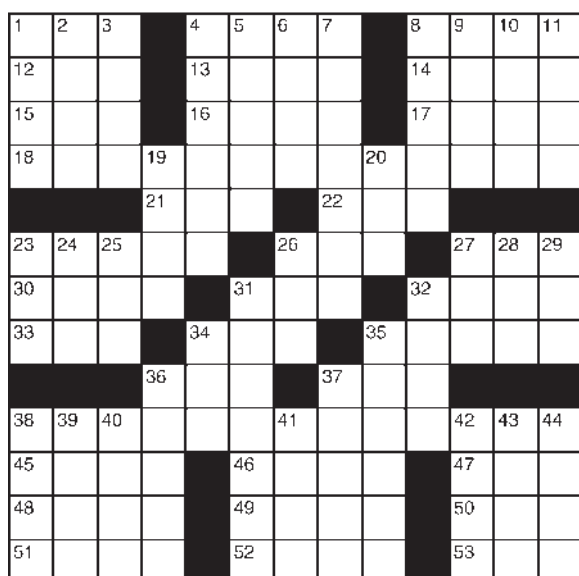
DOWN

1 Off
2 Unrivaled
3 Steering wheel
4 Exact
5 Tier
6 Oil
7 Rocket launcher
8 "Ivanhoe" author
9 Hammer wielder of myth
10 Anise-flavored liqueur
11 First victim
19 "The Wizard of Oz"
20 Aye under
23 Performance
24 Pi follower
25 D.C. pol
26 Sauce source
27 Carpool-lane abbr.
28 Raw rock
29 Teensy
31 Faux-suntan cosmetic
32 Options list
34 Monk's address
35 Appeared ominously
36 Dictator's aide
37 Teatime treat
38 Pedestal part
39 PC picture
40 Fit of peevishness
41 Sped
42 Out of harm's way
43 Thing
44 Information

Solution time: 27 mins.

S	H	E	H	A	S	A	E	S	O	P
H	A	G	A	D	A	C	A	L	V	E
R	I	G	N	O	L	A	N	R	Y	A
U	F	O	K	N	A	V	E			
B	A	N	K	I	D	O	B	O	Z	O
	N	U	S	W	E	L	D	E	R	
M	I	N	I	S	R	I	D	E	R	
P	R	E	F	A	B	S	A	T		
H	A	T	E	A	I	A	Z	O	I	A
I	F	A	V	E	F	Z	A	G		
I	R	N	F	R	Y	A	N	O	R	I
C	U	R	F	S	I	G	O	N	O	N
F	G	R	E	T	R	I	S	F	R	G

Yesterday's answer 9-29



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99c per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Erika Eleniak, 43; Roger Bart, 50; Bryant Gumbel, 64; Jerry Lee Lewis, 77.

Happy Birthday: Know your limits and explore possibilities. Learn from the people you associate with and the information you gather. Follow through with your plans, and exercise resistance when it comes to lending, borrowing or donating. Face aggressive action with dignity and a powerful mind. Embrace change and make it work for you. Don't fight the impossible. Your numbers are 2, 7, 20, 27, 33, 35, 49.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Challenge yourself mentally and you will alleviate stress and tension due to other people's actions, comments and complaints. Focus on the present and the people you love. A romantic opportunity will arise through a work-related event you attend. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't be fooled by what's being presented to you. Look past the impression you are being given and ask questions that will allow you to see how tangible the prospects actually are. Protect your reputation. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Forget about the past and things you cannot change. It's a new day. Time to engage in what you know and do best. Circulate with peers who can contribute to whatever cause or project you want to accomplish. Love is enhanced. ****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Do your own thing and don't count on anything or anyone. A physical challenge will help to ease your stress and get you back on track. A

shopping spree may help your emotional outlook, but don't overspend in the process. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Face any dilemmas head-on so you can move on. Discussing matters may cause upset and anger, but it's still worth your while to expose your true feelings. Change is required, and in the end you will be relieved, regardless of the outcome. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Consider a past experience to help you avoid making a similar mistake. Don't allow emotional insecurity to lead to an impulsive change you'll live to regret. Don't let a love interest interfere with your professional prospects. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Plan to have some fun, but don't overindulge in the process. Moderation coupled with good friends and interesting entertainment will instigate a plan of attack on a project you have been having difficulty finishing. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Make creative changes at home that will help you achieve your personal and professional goals. Go after your goals. Avoid negative people who are threatened by your intentions. Believe in your abilities, and put your energy into doing instead of arguing. ****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Make positive changes at home. A new look at surroundings more conducive to your needs will add to your personal comfort. Travel plans will be riddled with mishaps. Refuse to argue or take part in something underhanded. Love is highlighted. ****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Problems will arise while traveling or dealing with authority figures. You are best to avoid any impulsive moves based on an emotional incident. Make sure you understand what you are getting into before you offer to help an old friend. **



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Wasting time on negativity or anger will set you back. Focus on the present and the people who share your interests and concerns. Doing things to improve your finances or your home environment will impress someone you love. ****



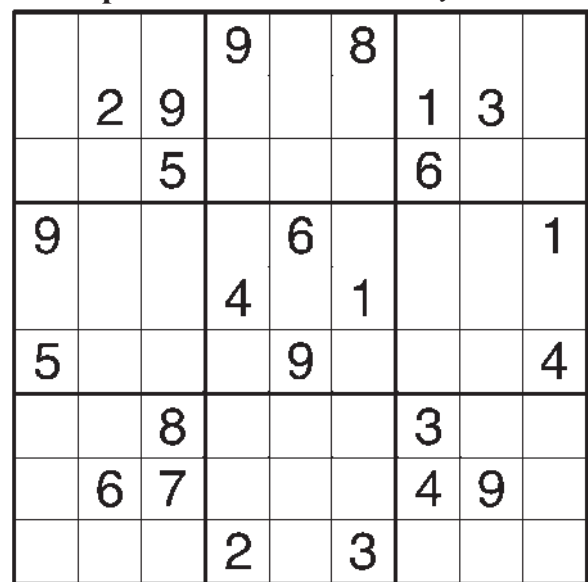
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't confuse someone's intentions. Keep an open mind, but realize that nothing in life is free. Ask questions and re-evaluate your position before you agree to do something that may not be in your best interest. Avoid secret involvements. ***

Birthday Baby: You are unique, charismatic and giving. You are passionate, intent and protective. Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



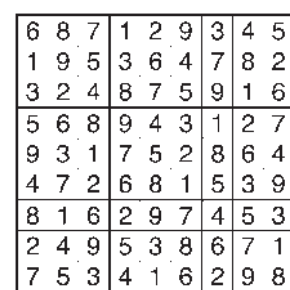
Difficulty Level ★★★★★

9/29

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★★★

9/29

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

NORA EPHRAIM (1941-2012)

Solution: 9 letters



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9/29

Adams, Amy, Blog, Cookie, Crazy Salad, Delia, Fantasy, Filmmaker, Food, Funny, Girl, Grow, Hairy Bird, Hallie, Hanging Up, Harry, Henry, Jacob, Journalist, Julia, Julie, Life, Love Loss, Mail, Max, Movies, News, New York, Nicholas, Nora, Novel, Phoebe, Pileggi, Plays, Sally, Screen, Scripts, Seattle, Silkwood, Sleepless, Smile, Strike, Taurus, Writer

Yesterday's Answer: Hallmark

The NFL's Fantasy Football season is in full swing. To help you get started, we've compiled a list of 100 words that are likely to appear in the puzzle. Find them and circle their letters only. Do not circle the word. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Phone is missing from desk. 2. House is missing. 3. West is different. 4. Paper are missing from desk. 5. Book is different. 6. File cabinet is gone.

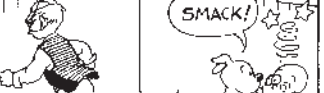
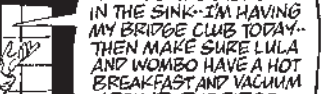
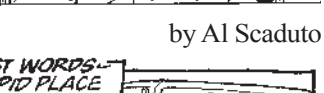
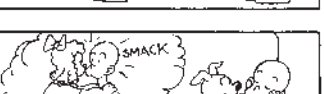
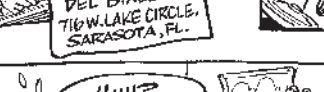
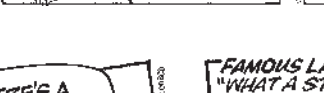
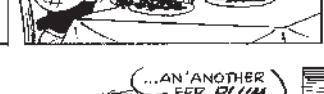
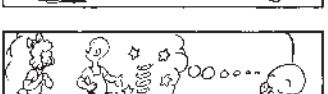
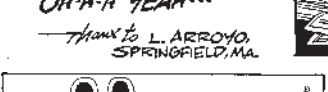
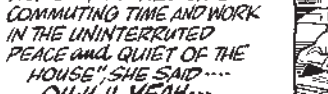
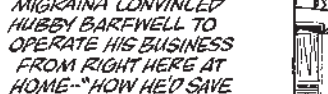
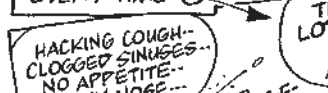
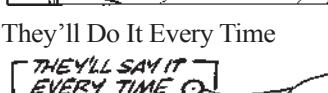
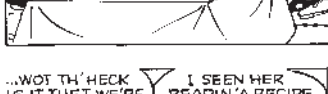
Wishing Well®

5	4	5	3	6	4	7	4	5	2	6	7	3
I	N	D	H	H	E	G	W	E	L	E	O	A
5	8	7	8	4	2	5	4	5	7	2	5	8
A	L	A	O	S	O	S	U	A	L	O	R	O
7	5	7	2	4	2	5	6	4	3	2	5	8
S	E	N	K	C	A	E	L	C	R	H	X	K
3	7	5	7	6	5	8	3	2	5	7	8	2
M	O	C	T	P	H	F	O	E	A	A	O	A
4	3	4	2	5	7	8	5	4	6	5	7	8
E	N	S	D	N	L	R	G	S	I	E	T	W
3	7	4	7	8	5	8	3	7	3	8	7	6
Y	E	D	R	A	D	R	A	E	T	D	D	S
4	3	4	6	4	3	4	6	3	4	6	3	6
A	H	W	N	N	O	E	E	M	D	A	E	R

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

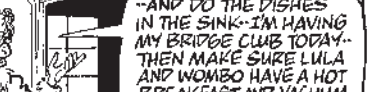
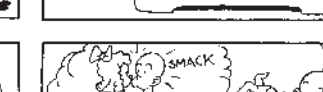
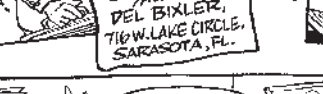
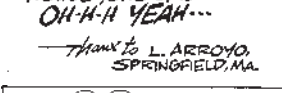
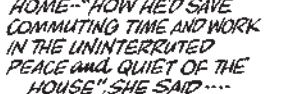
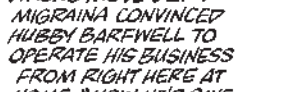
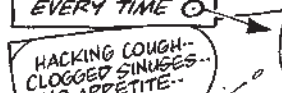
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POPEYE



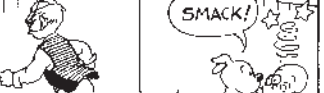
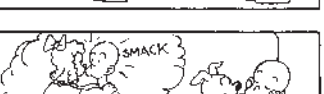
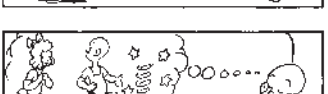
They'll Do It Every Time

THEY'LL SAY IT EVERY TIME



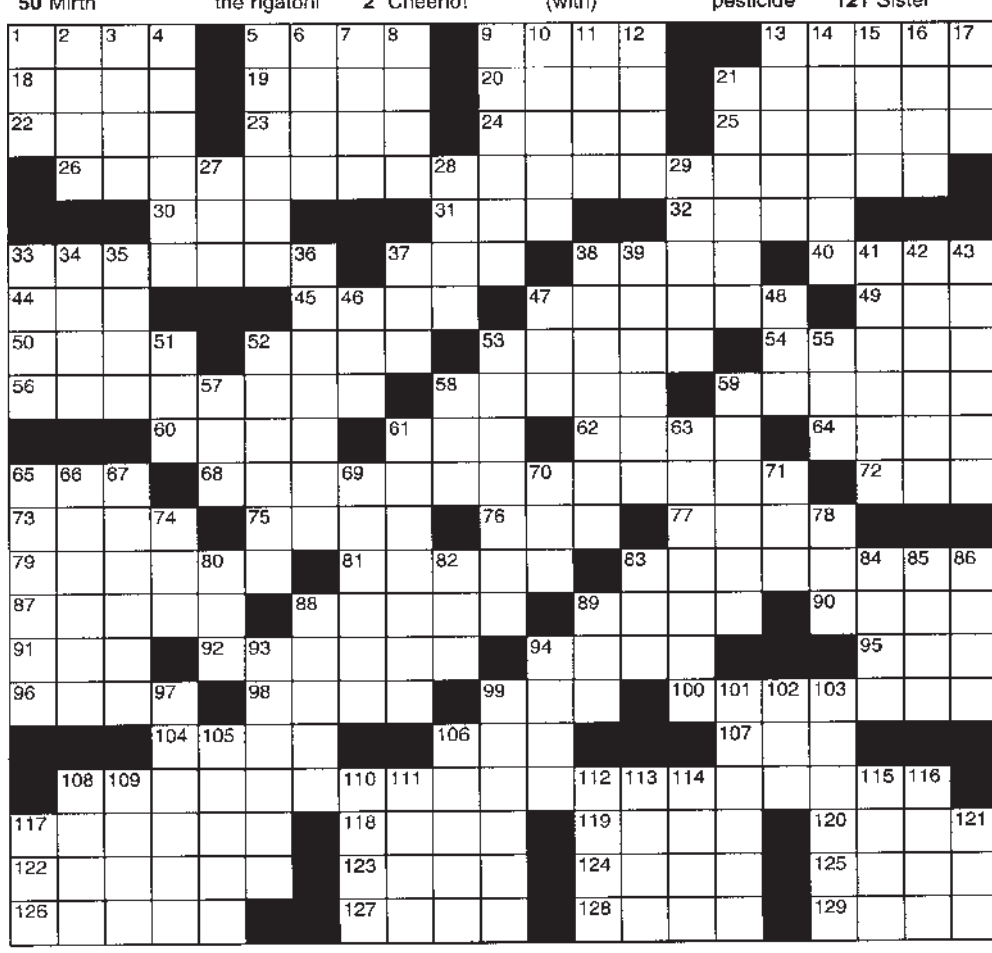
Henry

BY DON TRACHTE



Super Crossword CLONES

- ACROSS**
- 1 News bit
 - 5 Billboard
 - 9 Request an encore
 - 13 Flying Pan?
 - 18 Praise passionately
 - 19 Singer Guthrie
 - 20 Top-notch
 - 21 Pit
 - 22 "It Up" ('73 hit)
 - 23 A roaring success?
 - 24 Nary a soul
 - 25 Actress Andress
 - 26 Start of a remark by Laurence J. Peter
 - 30 Unfashionable
 - 31 Castilian cry
 - 32 "— and shine!"
 - 33 Part 2 of remark
 - 37 "Golden Girl" McClanahan
 - 38 Read quickly
 - 40 Spellbound
 - 44 Generation
 - 45 McGregor of "Train-spotting"
 - 47 Company
 - 49 Hot off the press
 - 50 Mirth
 - 52 Tennis legend
 - 53 Kanga's creator
 - 54 Crafter's need
 - 56 Anderson's "Tea and —"
 - 58 Shucks
 - 59 "Beagle" passenger
 - 60 — Spumante
 - 61 Lout
 - 62 "State Fair" state
 - 64 Etta of the comics
 - 65 Commercial
 - 68 Part 3 of remark
 - 72 Actor Fernando
 - 73 Learning method
 - 75 Grant or Elwes
 - 76 Youngster
 - 77 Emulated Pinocchio
 - 79 Winter wear
 - 81 Milo of "Ulysses"
 - 83 Malamutes and huskies
 - 87 Poe crow
 - 88 More owlsh
 - 89 Coat material
 - 90 Singer Amos
 - 91 Relished the rigatoni
 - 92 Ullman or Gold
 - 94 Flicka's foot
 - 95 Chum
 - 96 Harper of "Tender Mercies"
 - 98 Adequate
 - 99 Under-standing
 - 100 Part 4 of remark
 - 104 Lug
 - 106 Actress Zadora
 - 107 TV's "Have — Will Travel"
 - 108 End of remark
 - 117 Infantry action
 - 118 Cheese-board choice
 - 119 Landed
 - 120 Bearing
 - 122 Like Corn Belt soil
 - 123 Congenial
 - 124 — list
 - 125 Beige
 - 126 "The Threepenny Opera" star
 - 127 Antlered animal
 - 128 Out-of-this-world org.
 - 129 Meat cut
- DOWN**
- 1 April initials
 - 2 "Cheerio!"
 - 3 Sinister
 - 4 Wine variety
 - 5 Greet the general
 - 6 Rainbow goddess
 - 7 Whipped-cream serving
 - 8 Hendryx or Gaye
 - 9 Wicked thing?
 - 10 At large
 - 11 — May Wong
 - 12 Jury member
 - 13 Knitting stitches
 - 14 Less demanding
 - 15 Part of Micronesia
 - 16 Colleague of 101
 - 17 Rug type
 - 21 Like a Vermont village
 - 27 "What?"
 - 28 It may be common
 - 29 Rub out
 - 33 Packs groceries
 - 34 "The — Dachshund" ('66 film)
 - 35 Swarm (with)
 - 36 New York university
 - 37 — Dawn Chong
 - 38 Made mucky
 - 39 Faultfinder
 - 41 Response
 - 42 Clothing category
 - 43 Jacksonian bill
 - 46 Kid's query
 - 47 Hodges of baseball
 - 48 Loser's locale
 - 51 Antipollution grp.
 - 52 Storm
 - 53 Winter wear
 - 55 Joan Van —
 - 57 Lava particles
 - 58 "Bail —"
 - 59 '73 Elton John hit
 - 61 Ancient epic
 - 63 Prosperous
 - 65 Genesis peak
 - 66 Contribute
 - 67 Ranges
 - 69 Beethoven symphony
 - 70 Air safety org.
 - 71 Nugent or Knight
 - 74 Poetic preposition
 - 78 Banned pesticide
 - 80 Picnic pest
 - 82 "Yo!"
 - 83 — Canals
 - 84 Klutz's cry
 - 85 Mardi —
 - 86 Farm feature
 - 88 House
 - 89 Finished first
 - 93 Act like the Earth
 - 94 "— Wave" ('63 hit)
 - 97 Comic Kaye
 - 99 "Trees" poet
 - 101 Author Christie
 - 102 Word with fruit or Stanley
 - 103 Crown covering
 - 105 Florida city
 - 106 Locale
 - 108 Knight time
 - 109 Muscat's nation
 - 110 Be inclined
 - 111 Magnus or McClurg
 - 112 "Laugh-in" name
 - 113 Literary pseudonym
 - 114 Pine for
 - 115 Puerto —
 - 116 Garr of "Mr. Mom"
 - 117 "Silent" president
 - 121 Sister



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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- 1. SPACE: What did the Apollo 11 mission accomplish?
- 2. MOVIES: What literary character is featured in the movies "Casino Royale" and "Live and Let Die"?
- 3. HISTORY: In what year was the Magna Carta signed?
- 4. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president instituted the Good Neighbor

- policy toward Latin America?
- 5. PSYCHOLOGY: What abnormal fear is represented by "odontophobia"?
- 6. TELEVISION: Who played the part of Trapper John McIntyre on "MASH"?
- 7. LITERATURE: What was the original title of F. Scott Fitzgerald's "This Side of Paradise"?
- 8. ENTERTAINERS: How old was actress/singer Marilyn Monroe when she died?
- 9. U.S. STATES: Which state's nickname is the Mountain State?
- 10. FAMOUS QUOTES: What 20th-century leader once said, "

CLASSIFIED ADS



CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$27
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
■ All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

reverse

www.facebook.com/dingbatgames

Find today's solution in classified section

QQ RENT A CAR
Starting as low as...
\$29.99
without Insurance
Call: 233-8855, 483-8866 or 233-8866
\$100 Security Deposit Required
Garapan • Susupe • San Antonio
Some conditions may apply

DPA CAR MART
We're buying '95 & Up used cars!
Transaction only within 30 mins.
Call 287-8688 or visit
DPA CAR MART in San Antonio

Manufacturing and architectural firm is looking for an **Accountant**.
Selected applicant must be available to work immediately.

Experience in inventory accounting a plus.
Bring your resume to RR& Associates at Ground Floor, D' Torres Building, Middle Road, Garapan, Saipan or email to kgci77@gmail.com.
Applicants may be tested.
The position vacancy will close on October 05, 2012.

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SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff,
-v-
ALBERT I. REMOKET and CONSOLACION I. REMOKET, Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0142

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on September 10, 2012, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 002 G 59, situated in Kagman II, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 968 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 03 dated May 31, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 90-1900, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, October 12, 2012, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 25th day of September, 2012:
/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF
MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff,
-v-
ALFONSINA M. ARJU and ARJU ARJU, Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0005

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on September 10, 2012, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 045 A 031, situated in As Matuis, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 1,123 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 045 A 003 dated July 12, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 93-1038, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, October 12, 2012, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 25th day of September, 2012:
/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

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Fans cheer refs, and Ravens beat Browns



BALTIMORE (AP)—The regular NFL officials returned to action, and the ending of their first game was eerily familiar to the one that hastened the exit of the replacement refs.

This time, however, there were no replays or arguments at the end. Just another win by the Baltimore Ravens over the Cleveland Browns, 23-16 on Thursday night.

If not for two failed desperation passes into the end zone in the closing seconds, the returning officials might have had to work overtime on their first night back.

Cleveland began its final drive with 1:05 to go on its own 10. Rookie Brandon Weeden moved the Browns to the Baltimore 33 before a fourth-down pass into the end zone fell incomplete. But a personal foul penalty on Baltimore linebacker Paul Kruger gave winless Cleveland one more chance.

That pass sailed out of the end zone. "Too much juice," Weeden lamented.

The final sequence was not unlike the controversial ending of Monday night's Green Bay-Seattle game, when a Hail Mary pass was ruled a touch-down. That play, and the furor it created, hastened negotiations that brought the regular officials back.

The lockout ended late Wednesday, bringing about the exit of the unpopular replacement refs. And so, finally, the tenured officials were in place for Week 4.

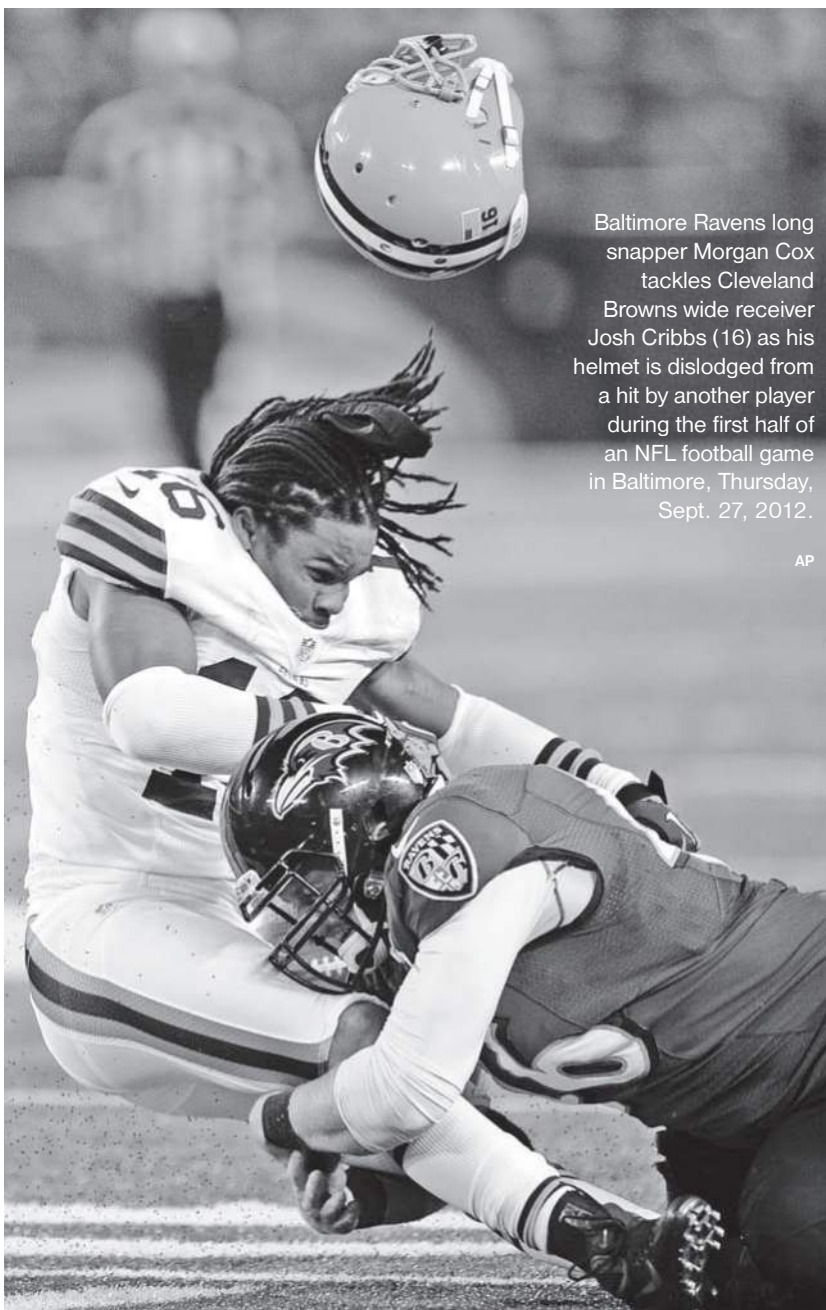
"I felt so bad for that Green Bay situation," Ravens running back Ray Rice said. "Replacement refs, their families, I can't knock them. The scrutiny they were under. That kind of scrutiny is bad. It's hard going from like Pop Warner to the big leagues."

As they walked onto the field hours before this game, the officiating crew received a round of applause and shouts of encouragement from fans in the lower sections. Head linesman Wayne Mackie and line judge Jeff Seeman both tipped their caps to acknowledge the support.

And then, before the pregame coin flip, referee Gene Steratore greeted the players at midfield by saying, "Good evening, men, it's good to be back."

Many in the sellout crowd of 70,944 stood and roared their approval.

Afterward, Ravens coach John Harbaugh echoed the sentiment of the crowd.



Baltimore Ravens long snapper Morgan Cox tackles Cleveland Browns wide receiver Josh Cribbs (16) as his helmet is dislodged from a hit by another player during the first half of an NFL football game in Baltimore, Thursday, Sept. 27, 2012.

AP

"Welcome back to the officials. Good to have them back," he said. "These guys are really good. The communication was good. I didn't agree with every call, but they were excellent."

Joe Flacco went 28 for 46 for 356 yards, threw one touchdown and ran for another. Yet, it wasn't until Cary Williams returned an interception 63 yards for a score at the end of the third quarter that the Ravens (3-1) put some distance between themselves and the young Browns (0-4).

"I thought our secondary made plays that had to be made, especially at the end there when they were knocking at the door," Harbaugh said. "Cary Williams was the difference in the game with the interception return for a touchdown."

The fans waited until the third quarter to boo the officials. On a 13-yard completion from Weeden to Benjamin Watson, Ravens safety Bernard Pollard was called for a helmet-to-helmet hit. The crowd jeered the call, but replays appeared to confirm the penalty.

The 15-yard markoff set up a 51-yard field goal by Phil Dawson that got the Browns within 16-10.

Late in the quarter, Williams ambushed an out pattern by Travis Benjamin and took the interception down the right sideline for a 13-point lead.

It was the 13th consecutive home win for the Ravens, the longest current run in the NFL, and their streak of 10 straight wins in the division is also the most of any team. Balti-

Goodell apologizes to fans for replacement games

NEW YORK (AP)—NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell apologized to the fans who fretted through three weeks of replacement officials calling their favorite teams' games.

"Obviously when you go through something like this it is painful for everybody," he said on a conference call Thursday, about 12 hours after the league reached a deal to bring back the regular officials. "Most importantly, it is painful for our fans."

"We are sorry to have to put our fans through that, but it is something that in the short term you sometimes have to do to make sure you get the right kind of deal for the long term and make sure you continue to grow the game."

Two days after a missed call on the final play cost the Green Bay Packers in their loss to the Seattle Seahawks, the NFL and the officials' union announced a tentative eight-year agreement to end a lockout that began in June.

Goodell insisted the timing of the deal was not a reaction to the outcry over "Monday Night Football." The two sides had been in "intensive negotiations" the last two weeks, he said, though he acknowledged that game "may have pushed the parties further along."

The commissioner was watching at home Monday night.

"You never want to see a game end like that," Goodell said.

But he wouldn't concede that the presence of replacement officials increased the chances an egregious mistake would occur. Goodell repeatedly reminded reporters that the regular officials have botched plenty of calls over the years.

The new agreement, he said, will improve officiating week in and week out, reducing similar mistakes in the future and making the strains of the last three weeks worthwhile.

"You're always worried about the short-term impact on your brand and the long-term impact on your brand," he said. "Obviously, this has gotten a lot of attention. It hasn't been positive, and it's something that you have to fight through and get to the long term. ... We always are going to have to work harder to make sure we get people's trust and confidence in us."

In the meantime, he asserted, players' health and safety were never jeopardized by the use of replacement officials.

"The folks on the field during the last three weeks were under unprecedented scrutiny," Goodell said. "Everything they did, every call, was magnified. They kept the game going. They worked hard. They trained hard. They were incredibly focused and dedicated."

more has also won nine straight over Cleveland.

Anquan Boldin caught nine passes for 131 yards, and Torrey Smith had six catches for 97 yards and a score.

Weeden went 25 for 52 for 320 yards, but rookie running back Trent Richardson gained only 47 yards rushing on 14 carries. Dawson kicked field goals of 51, 50 and 52 yards, the last one with 4:33 left to make it 23-16.

It's the third time since 1998 that the Browns have lost their first four games. They finished 2-14 in 1999 and 5-11 in 2009.

Coach Pat Shurmur applauded the performance of the refs, and acknowledged he deserved an unsportsmanlike conduct call in the fourth quarter.

"I can't do that," he said. "It's an emotional game, and I got to make sure I keep my emotions in check."

Cleveland played the majority of the game without wide receiver and punt returner Joshua Cribbs, who sustained a concussion while returning a kick late in the first quarter.

Cribbs had his helmet knocked off and lost the handle on the ball after absorbing a hard hit by Dannell Ellerbe. It was legal tackle, shoulder to helmet, and the officials did not call a penalty. Cribbs lay prone for several minutes before finally rising to his feet and walking off the field.

Flacco went 16 for 26 for 186 yards and a touchdown to stake the Ravens to 9-7 halftime lead.

Heat's Bosh: Ready for camp, injury 'behind him'



MIAMI (AP)—Heat forward Chris Bosh insists food tasted better this summer. People were friendlier to him and his family. Everything, he said, seemed more fun.

It could have all gone a decidedly different way.

The abdominal injury that nearly ended his season - and probably would have doomed Miami's title chances - is behind him now, Bosh said. But when things looked most bleak, when the Heat lost two straight games to the Indiana Pacers in the Eastern Conference semifinals after he got hurt, Bosh was preparing himself for a long offseason without a championship to savor.

"I thought it was over," Bosh said in an interview with The Associated

Press. "I didn't want to fully emotionally invest myself anymore because I didn't want to get hurt like last year when we lost the finals. I kind of had a letdown. I'm not going to lie. I was defeated. And then my wife came to me and said, 'You know, you said things were going to look bad, but you have to keep going.'"

So he did. After missing about three weeks—the typical recovery time for an injury like his is often twice that long—Bosh returned for the East finals against Boston. He made a huge 3-pointer in Game 7 as part of a 19-point effort to help beat the Celtics, then averaged 14.6 points against Oklahoma City as the Heat beat the Thunder in five games for the NBA championship.

On Saturday the Heat open training camp in Miami. And Bosh is eager to get the group back together.

"I feel good. I feel real good," Bosh said. "I've been pretty eager to get back with training camp looming and everything. I'm real excited to get back, start working. I've been in the gym a few times in the past couple weeks and that itch for basketball is there. I'm glad it's there and I'm looking forward to this season."

He's beginning his 10th NBA season, as are fellow Heat stars LeBron James and Dwyane Wade. Their balmy decision to team up in Miami in the summer of 2010 led to countless adjustments to everyone, especially Bosh, who went from being the top option in Toronto to the perceived

third-wheel with the Heat.

In Miami, they insist that isn't even close to the truth. Wade and James routinely referred to Bosh last season as Miami's "most important player," and the reasons why they say that were on display when the Heat struggled in the playoffs while Bosh dealt with the abdominal injury.

"I know his talent," Wade said. "I know what he brings to the game."

By now, probably just about everyone does.

Game 7 against Boston was a classic for the Heat, a game where for 13 minutes—a 46-possession span—of the second half, neither team led by more than two points. Bosh changed that for good when he made his career-best third 3-pointer of the night and

sparked the burst that pushed Miami to what became a 101-88 win.

Hard to believe that a couple weeks earlier, he could barely walk.

"I remember thinking just before that shot, if it hits my hands, I'm shooting it," Bosh said. "I don't really think that one particular shot was a significant moment. There were a lot of significant moments. ... The whole time that game was going on, I just knew we were going to win. I didn't have any doubt in my mind. And every time I touched the ball and I shot the ball in that game, I knew it was going in. That's just how I felt."

The biggest key for him now is not feeling the same sort of pain he felt when he got hurt while dunking in Game 1 of the second-round series with Indiana.

It's been his biggest priority this summer, and will stay that way.

Dickey reaches milestone with 20th win for Mets



NEW YORK, N.Y. (AP)—R.A. Dickey became the first knuckleballer to win 20 games in more than three decades, matching his career high with 13 strikeouts and leading the New York Mets over the Pittsburgh Pirates 6-5 Thursday behind David Wright's tie-breaking, three-run homer.

A 37-year-old knuckleballer who had never won more than 11 games in any previous season, Dickey (20-6) overcame an outstanding, climbing catch by Travis Snider more than 2 feet above the right-field wall that robbed Mike Baxter of a tying home run in the second inning.

Dickey allowed three runs and eight hits in 7 2-3 innings, walking two and reaching double digits in strikeouts for the seventh time this season. He leads the NL with 222 Ks.

Reds 2, Brewers 1

In Cincinnati, slumping rookie Todd Frazier tied the game with a two-out homer in the ninth inning, Dioner Navarro hit an RBI triple moments later and Cincinnati dealt a major setback to Milwaukee's playoff chances.

The Brewers slipped four games behind idle St. Louis with six games left in the race for the final NL wild card.

Nationals 7, Phillies 3

In Philadelphia, Gio Gonzalez became the first 21-game winner in the majors, Michael Morse hit two homers and Washington beat Philadelphia to move closer to an NL East title.

Bryce Harper also connected for the Nationals, who reduced their magic number to three. They have a four-game lead over Atlanta with six to play.

Tyler Cloyd (2-2) allowed six runs and six hits in five-plus innings.

Braves 6, Marlins 2

In Atlanta, David Ross and Andrelton Simmons raced home on left-fielder Bryan Petersen's costly error, sending Tommy Hanson and Atlanta to a victory over Miami.

Hanson (13-9) allowed two runs, one earned, and six hits in 5 1-3 innings for his first win since July 30, also against Miami. The right-hander was 0-4 with a 5.06 ERA in his previous seven starts.

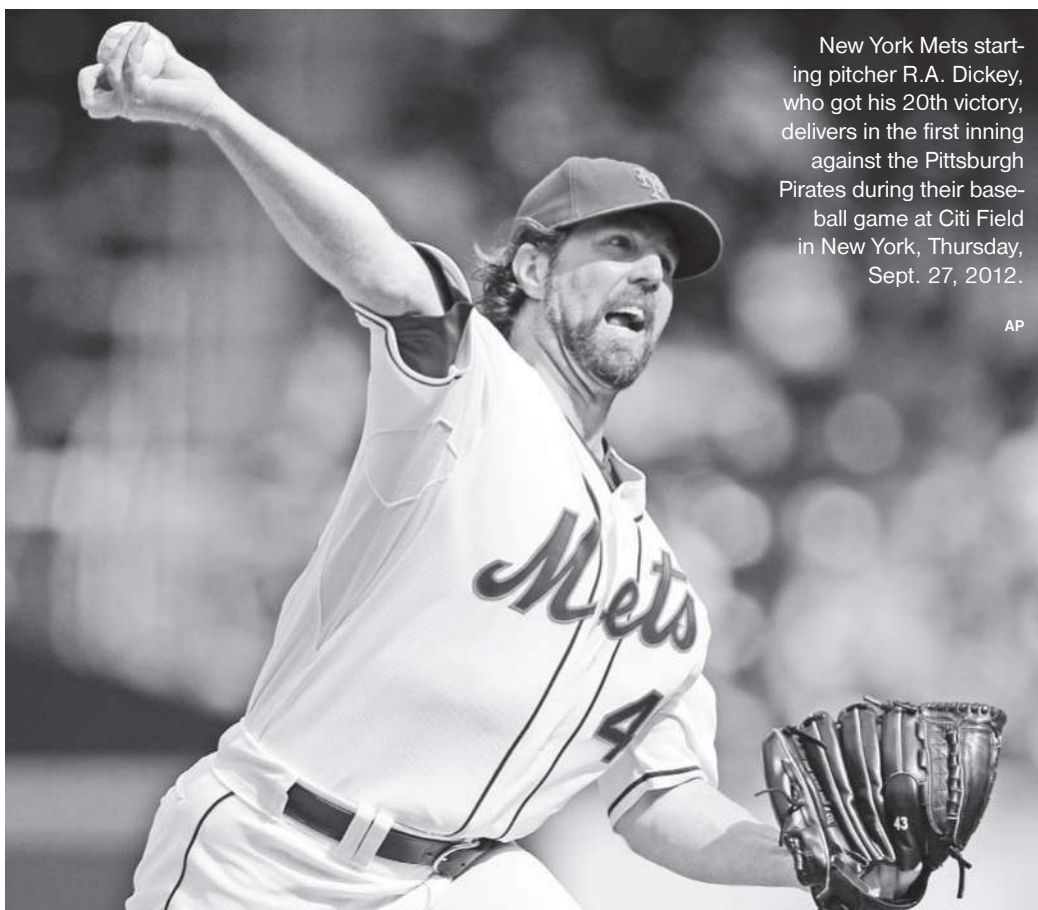
Giants 7, Diamondbacks 3

In San Francisco, Midseason acquisitions Hunter Pence and Marco Scutaro each hit a two-run homer in the second inning to back Barry Zito, and the NL West champion San Francisco Giants beat Arizona in their regular-season home finale.

Zito (14-8) allowed three runs in six innings to win his fourth straight start and sixth consecutive decision. The 2002 AL Cy Young Award winner with Oakland has his most wins since joining the Giants on a \$126 million, seven-year contract before the 2007 season.

Dodgers 8, Padres 4

In San Diego, Chris Capuano won for the first time in eight



New York Mets starting pitcher R.A. Dickey, who got his 20th victory, delivers in the first inning against the Pittsburgh Pirates during their baseball game at Citi Field in New York, Thursday, Sept. 27, 2012.

AP

starts and Los Angeles inched closer in the wild-card race.

Luis Cruz hit a two-run single to help the Dodgers pull within three games of idle St. Louis for the final NL playoff spot. Both teams have six games remaining.

Rockies 7, Cubs 5

In Denver, Jordan Pacheco and DJ LeMahieu homered, leading Colorado over Chicago for a three-game sweep.

Pacheco, Wilin Rosario and Chris Nelson had two hits apiece for the Rockies, who had 12 hits in their final home game of 2012.

Rafael Betancourt relieved in the ninth after a run was in and there were two on with none out. He gave up an RBI double to Alfonso Soriano before finishing for his 31st save.

Rangers 9, Athletics 7

In Arlington, Ian Kinsler got Texas started with a leadoff homer, Matt Harrison earned his 18th victory and the AL West-leading Rangers held on to win 9-7 Thursday for a four-game split with the chasing Oakland Athletics.

The two-time defending American League champion Rangers

(92-64) have a four-game division lead over the A's with six to play, including three games in Oakland next week. The Athletics own a two-game edge in the race for the second wild card.

Mariners 9, Angels 4

In Anaheim, John Jaso hit a two-run homer and an RBI double for Seattle, and the Los Angeles Angels wasted a chance to get within one game of an AL wild-card spot.

Vernon Wells and Alberto Callaspo drove in early runs for the Angels (86-70), who had

won five straight and an AL-best 16 of 23 in September before stumbling in their regular-season home finale.

Tigers 5, Royals 4

In Detroit, Doug Fister set an AL record by striking out nine straight batters and Detroit increased its lead in the Central, beating Kansas City on Alex Avila's grounder in the ninth inning.

The Tigers have a two-game division lead over the Chicago White Sox, who lost to Tampa Bay.

Rays 3, White Sox 2

In Chicago, Evan Longoria hit a tie-breaking homer in the ninth inning and the surging Tampa Bay Rays won their eighth straight game, handing the White Sox a loss that hurts Chicago's playoff chances.

The Rays and Angels are two games behind Oakland in the race for the second AL wild card. The White Sox fell two games behind first-place Detroit in the AL Central after their eighth loss in nine games.

Blue Jays 6, Yankees 0

In Toronto, Brandon Morrow and two relievers combined on a five-hitter, pitching Toronto to a victory that trimmed New York's tight lead in the AL East.

Edwin Encarnacion had three hits and three RBIs. Brett Lawrie hit a two-run homer and J.P. Arencibia added a solo shot as the Blue Jays handed an assist to idle Baltimore, shaving New York's division lead over the Orioles to one game.

No mystery guests at this Ryder Cup

MEDINAH, Ill. (AP)—The question used to come up every other year when the Americans began looking ahead to the Ryder Cup.

"Who's their Peter Baker?" Europe always had at least one player the Americans didn't know anything about until losing to him. Baker played in only one Ryder Cup, going 3-1 in 1993 and winning a singles match against Corey Pavin, one of the toughest guys to beat in match play.

Those days are gone. As golf has expanded its borders, the Ryder Cup no longer has any mystery guests.

Eight of the Europeans have joint membership on the PGA Tour, and all eight have homes in Florida. Luke Donald of England, who has the best winning percentage of anyone at Medinah, lives about 45 minutes away on the north side of Chicago. The only Ryder Cup rookie for Europe is Nicolas Colsaerts, the big hitter from Belgium. With the majors and World Golf Championships, he already has played eight times in America this year, and has

been invited to play in a PGA Tour event in two weeks in California.

There are no surprises in this Ryder Cup, only stars.

"Both teams are pretty much even and it's going to be a close match," European captain Jose Maria Olazabal said. "I don't see any favorites."

When the matches get under way Friday at Medinah, they will feature the two strongest teams in the 85-year history of the Ryder Cup. The entire 12-man team for the United States was part of the 30-man field at the Tour Championship last week in Atlanta, joined by five of the seven Europeans who were eligible.

For the first time, the 24 players from both sides are among the top 35 in the world ranking.

Europe has four major champions and four players who have been No. 1 in the world. Three of the four rookies for the U.S. team have won majors in the last 13 months - Keegan Bradley, Bubba Watson and Webb Simpson. The Americans have experience at the top - Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson and

Jim Furyk collectively have played in 21 Ryder Cups and 90 matches. The Europeans have experience where it matters - winning.

It all starts to unfold Friday morning before a raucous crowd in the Chicago suburbs with a Ryder Cup that has all the trappings of a heavyweight prize fight.

Olazabal fought back tears at the mention of his mentor, the late Seve Ballesteros, during the opening ceremony. And while he won't be the same kind of captain as Ballesteros in 1997 at Valderrama, he seems to be following the same principles.

"Just play hard, play with passion and win the damn points," Olazabal said.

He sent out two of his best teams for the opening session of foursomes - Rory McIlroy and Graeme McDowell (Furyk and Brandt Snedeker), followed by Donald and Sergio Garcia, a tandem that has never been beaten in four alternate-shot matches. They will face Mickelson and Bradley.

So strong are the teams that among the four players U.S. captain Davis Love III sat Friday morning were two of the

four major champions this year—Watson and Simpson.

"We had a tough decision, and it wasn't who to send out. It was who to sit down," Love said.

About the only thing missing has been fodder for the tabloids. Familiarity in this event is breeding civility, not contempt.

"This is not a war. It's a golf watch," Love said. "It's a friendly golf match."

During the opening ceremony, after host Justin Timberlake was finished reading a poem, both captains made a point of emphasizing friendship.

"These matches are not life and death," Love said. "Golf has to be played with a certain spirit of graciousness or it's not golf at all."

It wasn't always that way, especially when Europe began to win and then the Americans started to care. Ballesteros was the spiritual leader of those European teams, using the Ryder Cup as a chance for them to prove they were not second-class citizens to the PGA Tour. And it didn't help when the marketing slogans promoted a contentious week, whether it was the "War on the Shore" or the "Battle at Brookline."

By the sound of so many players, they might as well be

cuddling in Chicago.

"Love Ian Poulter to death," Watson said Wednesday.

Most evident about this shift in the Ryder Cup was Monday afternoon at an airport some 45 minutes away. Olazabal flew over from London with the gold Ryder Cup trophy. Only three players from his team traveled with him, because the rest already were in America.

Paul Lawrie, back after a 13-year absence in the Ryder Cup, remembers 11 players on the plane when they traveled to Boston in 1999. The exception was Jesper Parnevik, who had moved to Florida years earlier.

"I think there's definitely less of a 'them-and-us' type of thing now from everybody's point of view," Lee Westwood said. "The players play with each other a lot more regularly since the start of the World Golf Championships, and the fact that the top world-ranked players get pulled together a lot more regularly. There's a feeling that the crowd knows the European players a lot better."

Has it become too friendly?

Not long after the Presidents Cup began in 1994, the International team complained that they should have a home game instead of always playing in America. Fred Couples suggest-

ed moving the matches to Lake Nona in Florida, where most of the international players lived. Now, there are five Europeans at Lake Nona - Poulter, Graeme McDowell, Justin Rose and Peter Hanson are permanent residents, and Sergio Garcia also has a home there.

The mere suggestion that the Ryder Cup turns soft was enough to make Poulter shudder.

"It means too much," Poulter said. "It means too much to Europe. It means too much to us for it to ever lose that edge."

Olazabal made that clear during the opening ceremony when he turned to Love and said, "I know how much you and your team want to win this love gold trophy back," Olazabal said. "But I have to tell you, we have every intention of taking it back with us."

Not even Medinah figures to produce much of an advantage to the Americans. About half the members on each team played in the PGA Championship on this tree-lined course in 2006, and so many of them play an American brand of golf these days, anyway. They are used to fast greens. Love has ordered the rough to be cut down to help his power hitters, but Europe has its share of power.

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MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	90	66	.577	—
Baltimore	89	67	.571	1
Tampa Bay	86	70	.551	4
Boston	69	87	.442	21
Toronto	69	87	.442	21

Central Division

Detroit	84	72	.538	—
Chicago	82	74	.526	2
Kansas City	70	86	.449	14
Cleveland	65	91	.417	19
Minnesota	65	91	.417	19

West Division

Texas	92	64	.590	—
Oakland	88	68	.564	4
Los Angeles	86	70	.551	6
Seattle	73	83	.468	19

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

z-Washington	95	61	.609	—
z-Atlanta	91	65	.583	4
Philadelphia	78	78	.500	17
New York	72	84	.462	23
Miami	66	90	.423	29

Central Division

x-Cincinnati	94	62	.603	—
St. Louis	84	72	.538	10
Milwaukee	80	76	.513	14
Pittsburgh	76	80	.487	18
Chicago	59	97	.378	35
Houston	51	105	.327	43

West Division

x-San Francisco	91	65	.583	—
Los Angeles	81	75	.519	10
Arizona	78	78	.500	13
San Diego	74	82	.474	17
Colorado	62	94	.397	29

z-clinched playoff berth
x-clinched division

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Jets	2	1	0	.667	81	75
Buffalo	2	1	0	.667	87	79
New England	1	2	0	.333	82	64
Miami	1	2	0	.333	65	66

South

Houston	3	0	0	1.000	88	42
Jacksonville	1	2	0	.333	52	70
Tennessee	1	2	0	.333	67	113
Indianapolis	1	2	0	.333	61	83

North

Baltimore	3	1	0	.750	121	83
Cincinnati	2	1	0	.667	85	102
Pittsburgh	1	2	0	.333	77	75
Cleveland	0	4	0	.000	73	98

West

San Diego	2	1	0	.667	63	51
Denver	1	2	0	.333	77	77
Kansas City	1	2	0	.333	68	99
Oakland	1	2	0	.333	61	88

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

Dallas	2	1	0	.667	47	54
Philadelphia	2	1	0	.667	47	66
N.Y. Giants	2	1	0	.667	94	65
Washington	1	2	0	.333	99	101

South

Atlanta	3	0	0	1.000	94	48
Tampa Bay	1	2	0	.333	60	67
Carolina	1	2	0	.333	52	79
New Orleans	0	3	0	.000	83	102

North

Minnesota	2	1	0	.667	70	59
Chicago	2	1	0	.667	74	50
Green Bay	1	2	0	.333	57	54
Detroit	1	2	0	.333	87	94

West

Arizona	3	0	0	1.000	67	40
San Francisco	2	1	0	.667	70	65
Seattle	2	1	0	.667	57	39
St. Louis	1	2	0	.333	60	78

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MULTIPLE

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took the opening game, 21-15, but Ortega extended the finals with a 21-18 triumph in the second game. Then in the deciding third game, Belialba regained his bearings and eked out a 21-16 victory.

Brendon Talania joined Belialba and Ortega in the Top 3 with his 21-14, 21-16 victory against Bernard Aquino in the consolation game.

In the men's Class B doubles finals, Belialba partnered with Rommel Bartolome and again the title showdown was decided in three games. Bartolome and Belialba drew first blood, 21-18, but failed to wrap up the finals early when Jordan Pangilinan and Celso Agui recovered in the second game with a 21-17 win. Then in the third set, Bartolome and Belialba got their acts together to post a 21-15 victory.

Completing the Top 3 in the men's Class C doubles were Pzao Shung Xiun and Kim Young Sook, who swept Ortega and Lagrazon in the consolation match, 21-18, 21-15.

Meanwhile, results of the title games in the women's division will be released next week.

Masters basketball league kicks off tomorrow

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



The Masters Basketball Federation of the Northern Marianas Islands will start its second season tomorrow at 9am at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Individuals who do not have a team are still welcome to register with the club and get in on the action.

Eighteen teams have already shown interest and plenty of slots are available. Pangelinan persists in getting enough 50A players together to make a fourth division, but if not they will be added into the 45A field with a few roster adjustments to even out the competition. There will also be competition in the 35A and 40A.

Registration will be left open on opening day with an entrance fee of \$10 per player, per division; Team fees are set at a lump sum of \$120. A proper form of identification, such as a valid driver's license, birth certificate or identification card, is required



upon registration. Players turning the minimum age of their preferred age group(s) before the end of the calendar year are eligible. Thus, players turning 35 before December 31 may enter into the 35A division, and so on.

Rosters are limited to 12 players per team and everybody must play.

So far, seven 35A teams, six 40A squads and five 45A groups have expressed interest in participating this year, however none are confirmed and league organizers are still awaiting payment.

This season will also mark MBFN-MI's inaugural competition for the 50A age division. Organizers expect to confirm the 2012 game schedule for all divisions after this weekend's opening day.

For more information, contact MBFN-MI chair Ray Lizama at 286-6269 or email mastersbasketball_670@yahoo.com.

IT&E's Bruce Berlines pulls up for a jumper during their title win against Easy Does It in the inaugural Masters caging in 2010 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

'Mad Hatter's' frisbee tourney set for Oct. 6

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Saipan's very first "Mad Hatter's" Ultimate Hat Tournament is scheduled for Oct. 6 at the baseball field across from Mariana Resort.

"We look forward to everyone coming out and having a great time. We understand that Club 200 is on the evening of our event, but rest assured we plan to get the games going early enough so you won't miss out on your chance to win big and enjoy the fun," stated organizers Amanda Allen and Trey Dun in a recent email.

Headlined as a hat tournament, some interesting hats will be given as prizes in addition to various other accolades, including, but not limited to discs and drinks. Games start at 8:30am.

Players will be ranked based on experience and athleticism and teams will be picked out of a hat. Certain hats will represent the players' different attributes and those with similar skill sets will be divided to help create balanced teams.

"We are having this tournament to encourage newcomers to learn more about the game, have the opportunity to play with off-island players, and

have a fun day to improve their throw and show off their MAD skills," added Allen.

Several players from Guam and at least one from Japan are coming over to appear in the inaugural event.

Awards will be presented to the first and last placed teams, as well as the most spirited squad. There will also be awards for the most valuable player, most "fun" player, and a few others.

The tournament bracket will be determined by the turnout, however every team is guaranteed three or four games. It is a coed event and open to any interested individuals.

Pre-registration is preferred and costs only \$10 for a day full of fun. Late registrants will be accepted on the day of the event until 8:30am for \$12; the cost covers food, drinks, and prizes, which will be on hand throughout the day.

Although it is still commonly referred to today as "Ultimate Frisbee", the latter part of the term had to be removed because of copyright laws pertaining to the Frisbee flying disc manufacturer.

For more information, contact Amanda Allen at ms.amandaja@gmail.com or Trey Dunn at dunn.trey@gmail.com, or call 287-1407.

DODGERS

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Brian Camacho. Carl Camacho followed with a double and two more Dodgers runners came home off extra throws.

The Dodgers then pressed further ahead, 6-3, in the fifth inning off two hits. Brian Camacho singled in Atalig and was later escorted to the plate off Jhace Palacios's sacrifice fly.

Notably, Dodgers' Brian Camacho stepped to the rubber early in the third inning and held the Rockies in check until Atalig tapped him with two outs in the fifth inning. The Rockies had a man on third base at the time, but Atalig escaped cleanly and did a good job securing the save through the last two exchanges.

The Dodgers pulled away, 8-3, in the sixth inning off an error and an RBI triple by Guerrero, who scored Atalig,

and added one more for the cherry on top, thanks to another costly Rockies error out in the field in the seventh.

Although the Rockies started the game with a five-hit burst, they were held to just two hits for the remainder of the game. They managed to get a man in scoring position in the final stand, but the Dodgers turned a nice 6-4-3 double play to end the game.

Altogether, the Rockies stranded six runners and committed six errors,

while the Dodgers stranded four and also had four blunders. The Dodgers accrued nine hits.

Brian Camacho struck out five in 2 and 2/3 innings and batted 2-for-4 with three RBIs and two runs. Atalig struck out four in his 2 and 1/3 and scored three times. The Rockies' Dela Cruz swung 2-for-4 with one RBI.

The season continues today with the O's taking on the Rockies at 4pm and the Dodgers facing the Reds at 6pm.

REDS

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on players with at least 27 at bats.

In the RBIs race, Rogolifoi's seven front Dela Cruz (5), Rabaliman (5), Orioles' Jake Flores (5), Dodgers' Ton Guerrero (5), and Rockies' Cedric Ada (4) and Camacho (4).

Dodgers' Alex Monkeya is the only player credited with a triple, while

Dela Cruz and Rabauliman shared the doubles lead with three apiece. Flores, Muna, Rogolifoi and Dodgers' Palmerson Monkeya all trail the pair by only one.

Rabauliman has crossed the plate a league-high 12 times and is being threatened by teammates Masaharu (11) and Camacho (10).

Orioles' Camacho has given up zero earned runs through 14 and 1/3 in-

nings, while Wanket has been perfect in 16 frames and they remain the only two pitchers with at least 11 innings of work and a 0.00 ERA.

Muna (0.36) is close behind in second place after letting just one earned run through 19.1 innings, while Sec-harmedal (0.83), Rockies' Leroy Regis (1.18), Lizama (1.20) and Jake Santos (1.20), Rockies' Brett Halstead (1.53), Lieto (1.95), Dodgers'

Joseph Atalig (1.87) and Reds' Keene Guerrero (2.10) fill out the rest of the pecking order.

Lieto's 30 strikeouts, which were acquired in just 14 a 1/3 innings, lead the pack by seven as his buddy Sec-harmedal and veteran rival Regis are next in line with 23 each. Muna (20) and Atalig (16) are trying to get in the mix, while Santos (11), Lizama (10) and Halstead (10) round out the list.

SHUTOUT

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utes before the buzzer sounded.

KFAS 4, Paire 0

In the second Division 1 game, Korean Football Association on Saipan drew two goals from Byung In Lee en route to the easy win over Paire FC.

Sung Ho Kang attacked early for KFAS and made it to the scoreboard with just 10 minutes gone by in the first half. Not to be outdone was Scott Kim, who also found his target three minutes

after his teammate scored.

It took a while before KFAS lit up the scoreboard anew, but the long wait was worth it as Lee's twin goals were recorded in a span of six minutes. Lee had his first goal in the 75th and the second in the 81st to give KFAS a rousing debut.

MP United 9, Kanoa Resort 0

MP United logged the most lopsided victory in the opening of the revitalized M-League, whipping Kanoa Resort in the lone Division 2 match scheduled last weekend.

CNMI National Team member Joe

Miller debuted in the M-League with a hat-trick, scoring one goal in the first half (40th minute) and making two more in the second (75th and 82nd).

MP United's new recruit, Zheng Xu, also had an impressive first game, as he drained three goals, too. He announced his presence in the league with a goal in the 21st minute and then had back-to-back goals in the second half (64th and 68th).

MP United's two other goals were courtesy of Seoung Joon Lee (43rd) Evert Van Der Maas (89th) and one was an own goal off Kanoa's error.

Matansa FC and Shirley's FC completed Week 1 of the M-League with the former cruising to a 3-0 victory in their Division 2 game last Wednesday. No other details of the match were unavailable at press time.

Meanwhile, Week 2 of the M-League will be played this Sunday at the Oleai pitch with Tan Holdings FC meeting Wild Bill's at 2pm, Inter Godfather's colliding with Paire at 4pm, and Matansa taking on Kanoa at 6pm. Then on Wednesday, MP United will gun for victory No. 2 as it squares off with Shirley's FC at 6:30pm.



Dickey reaches milestone with 20th win for Mets

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Fans cheer refs, and Ravens beat Browns

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Multiple winners in Shirley's badminton

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 2012 Shirley's Coffee Shop Singles/Doubles Badminton Tournament wrapped up last Sunday at the TSL Sports Complex, producing multiple winners in the men's division.

In the men's Class A singles, Andreau Galvez swept rival Ferdie Arago in the finals. Galvez pulled off a close 21-18 victory in the first game before cruising to a 21-14 triumph in the second game. Joining Galvez and Arago in the Top 3 was Macoi Aguda, who defeated Sam Jones in the battle for third place, 21-18, 21-16.

Galvez also clinched the men's Class A doubles crown, teaming up with Hapi Gabriel. The winning duo needed only two games to down Jones and Glenn Bluutjens, 21-16, 21-17.

In Class B, Jexler Caranto also recorded twin wins. In the singles finale, he prevailed over Oh Im Bog, 21-14, 21-15. Wowie Abuel rounded out the Top 3 with a victory via forfeiture against Chris Hilario.

In the doubles, Caranto joined forces with Joel Ortega and outclassed Abuel and John Revilla. The first game on the men's Class B doubles finale was a neck-and-neck battle with Caranto and Ortega escaping with a 23-21 win. The second game was also a close one with the eventual champions nailing a 21-17 victory.

Oh and Raj Jayalal also won in two games against Vic Regis and Jojo Savellano in the battle for third place in the men's Class B doubles.

Duplicating Caranto and Galvez's feats was Ramir Belialba. In the men's Class C singles finals, Belialba survived Ortega in three games. Belialba

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Hapi Gabriel chases the shuttlecock during his and Andreau Galvez's semis game against Wowie Abuel and Joseph Santos in the men's Class A doubles division of the Shirley's badminton tournament last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Dodgers chase down Rockies



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

The Dodgers' Brian Camacho torques up for a big swing in this file photo taken in their previous game in the Triple A youth league early this month at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



The Dodgers mounted a four-run rally in the fourth inning and held on to down Rockies, 9-3, in the Saipan Major League Baseball Association-Division of Youth Services' 18U Triple A Youth Baseball League last Thursday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The win evened Dodgers' card to 5-5, while the Rockies dropped to a 2-9 slate. The Orioles are on top of the team standings with their 8-3 record, while the Reds are in second place with their 7-5 card.

The Rockies started off with a promising 3-0 lead in the first inning, but were abruptly held in check for the rest of the contest. They busted five hits off Dodgers' starting pitcher, Carl Camacho, including a trio of RBI singles from Leroy Regis, Ricardo Dela Cruz, and Davie Matagolai.

Camacho settled down, however, and worked a 1-2-3 outing in the second inning, but he and his teammates struggled at the plate against Rockies' starter, Regis, who notched seven strikeouts in his three-inning shift.

Once Regis left, however, the Dodgers bats awoke and they mounted a four-run rally in the top of the fourth inning off three hits and some timely errors.

Joseph Atalig and Ton Guerrero reached on an error and a base hit and were driven home off a base smash by

See DODGERS on Page 23



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Inter Godfather's, left, and Tan Holdings players shove each other as they battle for the ball during the opening game in the M-League last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Shutout wins highlight M-League opening

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Four teams had cruise control in the opening week of the M-League after blanking their respective foes at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

First to record a shutout win (2-0) was the Johann Noetzel-led Tan Holdings FC, which was paired against the Inter Godfather's last Sunday.

Actually, both teams were scoreless in the first half of the Division 1 match, as they challenged each other's shot, resulting to a highly physical match. Then in the opening minutes of the second half, Tan Holdings found some holes on Inter Godfather's defense and Li Guang

Lin went on to break the ice. Panapa Peteru made it a 2-0 count when he found the back of the net a few minutes later.

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Reds, Orioles players stand out

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Reds' Lancaster Secharmedal heads the batting race in the Saipan Major League Baseball Association-Division of Youth Services 18U Triple A Youth Baseball League, while his teammate Kainoa Wanket and Orioles' Frankie Camacho are on top of the pitching chart.

The do-it all lefty Secharmedal has belted 12 hits in 28 at bats for

a league-best 0.429 batting average. He leads teammate Peter Liteo (11H/27AB/0.407BA), Rockies' Ricardo Dela Cruz (11/29/0.379), Orioles' June Rabauliman (14/37/0.378) and Mike Muna (9/27/0.333), Rockies' Leroy Regis (9/29/0.310), Reds' Ian Rogolifoi (9/30/0.300) and an Orioles' trio of AJ Lizama (10/34/0.294), Poland Masaharu (10/35/0.286) and Frankie Camacho (9/32/0.281). The Top 10 in the batting race were based

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